Folder 52:
Barrow
1918-1921

PRESBYTERY OF ALASKA

PRESBYTERY OF YUKON
JAMES H. CONDIT
STATED CLERK

THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

HEADQUARTERS
No. 156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

TERRITORY OF ALASKA
JAMES H. CONDIT, D.D., GENERAL MISSIONARY
JUNEAU, ALASKA

March 5,1920

Rev. John A. Marquis,D.D.,
156 5th Avenue,
New York.

Dear Dr. Marquis:

This letter has to do with Barrow. I am anxious that none of the causes which have led Dr. Spence to feel that he has been neglected shall prevail another year. For this reason I have not only gone over the letters which I have received from the Doctor but have also carefully reviewed his communications to you, Mr. Banks, Commissioner Claxton, and am attempting to summarize the items which should be given consideration although this involves duplication. My thought is that in dealing with a mission so remote as Barrow we cannot be too thorough in consideration of the needs there.

1. Board communication with Barrow

Dr. Spence complains that he received no communications from the Board from the time the ships were in Barrow in 1918 up to October 7th,1919, excepting a statement of his account from Mr. Banks and the communications written from Nome By Dr. Marquis and myself, sent in by the Bender Brothers. This statement he makes in his letter to Mr. Banks of October 7th,1919.

There are several winter mails to Barrow and first class matter is carried through regularly in winter time. It would be a source of comfort to the Barrow missionaries if on every mail a word of good cheer could be sent. Letters received in the fall, when the boats come out, should be answered promptly in order that the replies may be carried in by winter mail. It is not necessary to wait for the summer mail.

2. Transportation to Barrow

Although the Bear was for the second time unable to get through to Barrow this year two boats, the Bender Brothers and the Hermann got in to Barrow and out again safely. Not only so but the Bender Brothers went as far west as Herschel Island. Each of these vessels carried supplies for traders.

Last year the same thing occurred and each of these vessels made the trip safely although the Bear succeeded only in getting to Wainright. This year all supplies of the Bear were unloaded at Point Hope and last year at Wainright. In so far as reaching Barrow is concerned they might as well have been left at Nome this year.

Dr. Spence raises the question of employing other means of getting in mail and supplies than by Revenue C utter.

This question becomes of special interest in view of the proposed erection of a hospital and the necessity of transporting the same.

There are three avaiable modes of transportation.

First, as formerly, by the Bear.

Secondly, by other carriers now operating. The two principal carriers reaching Barrow are the Bender Brothers and the Hermann. Each of these vessels usually carry limit loads to the trading posts which employ them.

However, Dr. Spence informs me that the Hermann is to be succeeded this year by a larger boat and suggests that the Board should interview H. Liebes and Co.,167-177 Post St.,San Francisco, owners of the Hermann, and ascertain whether or hot it would be possible to engage space on their new boat. He suggests that if supplies are sent in for the mission it might be advisable to bill them in care of C.D.Brower, Barrow, Alaska, who is their representative at this point.

Thirdly, by chartering a special vessel to carry up the hospital material and all supplies with it needed for the mission not only next year but for several years to come in so far as staples are concerned. In this it might be possible to secure the cooperation of the Bureau of Education.

The Board will remember Captain Backland and contracts madw with hin in other years. I believe that his nboat was the Northland. It might be possible to again enter into negotiations with him.

Dr. Spence suggests that representatives of the Board wishing to reach Barrow for visitation would be assured of much greater certainty in reaching their destination and would also secure much more time for their purposes by taking one of the trading schooners rather than depending upon the Revenue Cutter.

He also suggests that the mail for the station would reach its destination much earlier if sent on the trading schooners and cites by way of illustration the fact that letters from Dr. Marquis and myself came through by the Bender Brothers while the great quantity of mail carried by the Bear was deposited at Pt. Hope to wait for winter sledding.

3. Interpreter at Barrow

Dr. Spence calls attention to the fact that the mission is much in need of a trustworthy interpreter. In order that this need may be provided for it is necessary that a salary for the same be provided and this should be granted and authority given to Dr. Spence to engage such an interpreter.

4. The Hospital

Dr. Spence has sent an outline of a hospital plan to the Board. I also have a copy which I am herewith enclosing.

He has also asked for certain information regarding the Episcopal Hospital at Ft. Yukon.

I am writing to Dr.Burke for this information and am asking him to send the same directly to the Board. I would suggest that the reply be forwarded to Dr. Spence after use by Board.

5. Salary and Expenditures

Dr. Spence speaks of the insufficiency of his salary in view of the increased cost of living. This will be remedied, I think by the increase in same as made for all Alaska missionaries.

He also refers to having given orders on the Board for certain supplies with instruction to charge the same to his salary account. As these supplies, glasses, medicine,etc.,etc.,are used in gratuitous service he should not be permitted to pay for the same out of his salary.

6. Remaining at Barrow

Dr. Spence would be glad to remain at Barrow if health permits and if the Board will give him necessary supplies, especially coal. Of the latter I will write farther on.

Under the present conditions as to the representatives of the Bureau of Education it would be unwise to continue Dr. and Mrs. Spence at Barrow if the Crams remain. The condition is unspeakable. In my judgement Dr. Spence is not the provoking cause of this condition. I believe that the position of the Bureau will be that both should come out.

Dr. Spence is at that age when special consideration should be given to health and physical care. It is a question in my mind whether he should be put to the stress and care and isolation of such a station as Barrow. Would it not be possible to place him in some place where he would not have to face so great hardships? We can at this time offer at least two missions where he could do excellent service and at the same time be nearer to civilization. Each of these are in S.E.Alaska, Wrangell, or Klukwan. Or, if the plan as to a training school is carried out, the same to be located in Nome, he would give excellent service there.

An ideal arrangement would be to send a young physician to Barrow to work with Dr. Spence for a year or two, taking the itinerating work and assisting in all medical work with the idea of succeeding to Dr. Spence's work when he resigns it.

7. Supplies as by Dr. Spence's requisition

(1) Coal

There is evidently a lack of understanding on the part of the Board as to the amount of coal necessary to supply the work at Barrow. In his letter to me of September 2nd,1919 Dr. Spence writes as follows:

> It would seems as if I had worn the coal question threadbare and I do not understand why the Board does not apparently respond. Dr. Marquis speaks of ten tons of coal left at Pt. Hope and refers to no more. If it were here with what we have it would not keep the kitchen and office fire this winter and there is not one pound for the church services. When we started up here I could get no satisfactory statement from the Board as to fuel. Finally, at Seattle, I said to Dr. Major we

would return to our home unless the Board would agree to furnish all the fuel needed for our use and the church. He telegraphed them to that effect We designated forty tons a year as the amount needed and it was agreed to. In 1917 they s ent none at all and now again this year. All the time I have been insisting that there should be at least two years supply here all the time to provide against just such a yearas this. Why is it? Is there something at fault so far as the way it is put or what is the matter? We try to be as economical as possible in the use of the coal. Have not had a fire in our front room more than six days in two years and for months at this time of the year no fire in the church. We do not want to seem unreasonable but I tell you I dread the coming of winter more than any thing I ever undertook"

In his letter to Mr. Banks of October 7th,1919 Dr. Spence tells of his troublesin getting coal from Wainwrightand indicates that in order to get any coal he was compelled to pay $3 per sack and advance the money for the same giving an order on the Board for $200 in favor of a Mr. VanValin, of $21 in favor of C.D.Brower, and using $109 of his own money, a total of $330. He also indicates that this coal is of poor quality and can be burned to advantage only when combined with outside coal.

In the same letter to Mr. Banks the doctor speaks of attending a white woman in confinement in the kitchen of their house because there was no fuel to warm another room and indicates that he and his wife gavie up their bed by the fire in order that this woman with her 16 months old child and nurse girl might have the warm place by the only fire. He also tells of the colds he and his wife took because of giving up their own quarters. Also that there was no fire in the church excepting such as the natives provided for themselves and that made possible by the use of blubber.

Now this is an intolerable condition. It is true that the cost of coal to the Board is enormous. But coal must be supplied or as an alternativeclose the mission.

I think that a good deal of the trouble comes from the representation of the Bureau of Education that the Wainright coal is suitable for fuel and available. Dr. Spence and others say that it is hardly fit for use as fuel under any circumstances and can be burned only in combination with outside coal. There should be exact information as to the quality of the Wainright coal.

If a hospital is established at Barrow the fuel question will be the most serious in connection with its maintenance. It would seem as if the only possible solution would be in the charter or ownership of a boat to carry supplies for the missions and schools. Certainly it would seem as if at least next year, if the hospital is to be built, that the only possible plan is to charter a boat to take up the hospital and coal and other staple supplies sufficient to last for at least two years.

(2) Medicines

Dr. Spence says:

"Last year when the invoice arrived for the drugs I found the Bureau of Education has sent only about half what I had ordered of the things I used most. I sent and order to Lome Bros.,Nome, for what was left out to be sent by first mail. Have heard nothing of it yet and received no drugs nor any letter. On the same ship I sent an order to Seattle for eye glasses and receivedthem on the Christmas mail. In both cases I wrote the Board in New York about it and told them to take it out of my salary though I was financially not able to do this but I had no authority from them to draw on them. Have been out for some time of many drugs and so when I gave the letters to the two men going down the coast by whale boat to go out to the outside, I gave a letter to one of the men for drugs and asked him to see Lomen Brothers, in Nome and if they could not or would not fill it by the first mail to take it to Stewart and Holmes, Seattle, and ask them to send it by first mail. There is no use of my staying here if I cannot have the drugs and things needed. Have already written yiu of our salary being exhausted. If I pay for these things I will have to go in debt for them. Surely if the Board understand this they will find a way to relieve me of this burden. I paid for the glasses for the natives last yeas out of my own pocket. More are needed now but I can not do any more. Have had no mail from the Board in New York since the ships were here last year except a short one from Mr. Banks in the last winter mail saying he would write me again soon. Suppose our mail is at Pt. Hope. It may cover some of these things."
(Letter to me of Sept. 2nd)

In his letter to Dr. Marquis of October 27th,1919 , he says:

"I am sending to your Board this year through Mr. Banks, two copies of the medical requisition we expect to send out this year. It calls for a much larger quantity of the drugs we use the most than we have ever ordered before. I am sending these to your Board on the first winter mail as it has occurred to me possibly why we have not received all that was ordered was because the order did not get there in time, Might I ask you to see that this matter is taken up with the Bureau of Education in time to have the matter adjusted in time if we are to stay here another year.

He speaks of scarcity of drugs in other places and indicates that if it had not been for the $200 worth of drugs which the Board furnished he would have been entirely out of staples. He also speaks of the trader, Mr. Brower, going to ships in port and getting all they could spare of necessary drugs. Also of Mr. Brower turning over drugs ordered for his own store to Dr. Spence.

It requires no argument to establish the need of drugs and of all the drugs ordered in order to properly do the work which we have assigned to Dr. Spence. He cannot work without tools. I am unable to determine where the negligence is but some one has blundered. If it is the Bureau of Education which has cut down the requisition or has failed to get the drugs to Dr. Spence in time then our Board should either definitely ascertain that the Bureau will and has provided for this need or otherwise should itself supply the necessar drugs. I would urge that this matter be given attention

(3) Glasses

Dr. Spence asks for a "Trial Case for fitting glasses" He states that he is out of the weaker lenses,"from half a dioptre to a dioptre and a half"

In a former letter he speaks of wanting such a case as is catalogued by Frank Betz and Co., of Chicago, listed in 1918 at $26. This Trial Case was not sent to him before because Mr. Sinclair, of the Bureau of Education in Seattle wrote that it would probably cost over a Hundred Dollars. If not the Betz case then some other. The doctor represents that he is in great need of such an apparatus.

(4) Dental Engine

In his letter to Dr. Marquis of October 27, ~~1920~~ 1919, he asks for a dental engine and supplies for temporary filling of teeth. Also, an elementary book on dental work

(5) Food for sick and feeble

In the same letter he calls attention to the need of a supply of food suitable for sick and feeble persons--Esquimaux- and mentions milk, rice, flour, hard bread(hard tack)fruit,(I suppose both dried and canned) and enough coal to warm places where there are sick.

(6) Miscellaneous needs

In letter to Mr. Banks, October 7th,1919.

(a) One pound Kennedy's Ext. Pinus Canadensis
One dozen Antiphlogistine
(b) Glass cutter, dust pan, wicks for Rochester lamp.
(c) Ten pounds good fertilizer so that he can raise lettuce under glass.

In letter to Mr. Banks, July 1st,1919:

(a) Castings for fire box and grate for Range, Caronia-Economy, Comstock-Castle Co.,Quincy,Ill, No-8-20
(b) New lining,fire pot, and grate for Economy Hot-Blast 140-T stove
(c) New grate for Elite-Economy,198, heating stove.

(d) New grate for M.A.R.S.,23, heater

(e) New wicks for oil heater,Perfection, not the wicks with perforated tin attached but the long round wicks like those used on Rochester lamp,only larger, about two and three -quarter inches in diameter.

(f) Two sheets zinc,three feet square,for under stoves.

(g) One dozen lengths stove pipe and six elbows

(h) One dozen lantern globes, Rayo No 2(2) Cold Blast

(i) Clear glass and white globes for two two-burner Angle lamps.

(j) Sunday School singing books(I would suggest 100 copies)

(k) Japanese lanterns and white festooning for decoration

(l) Calendars for 1920 large enough to see across room

(m) Magazines and papers:

1. Subscription renewed to Herald and Presbyter and New Era Magazine.

2 Has sent a list to the J.M.Hanson agency for renewal of World's Work,Rev. of Reviews,American, Everybody's,Popular Mechanics, Geographic, with instructions to send bill to Mr. Banks.

3 Wants to subscribe for C.E.World and to have copy of C.E.Topics for 1920 and helps for Senior Endeavor work.

(n) Thirty gallons of paint for insidework.

(o) He hopes that Mr. Banks has already sent the stain for the roof and tile and cement for the chimneys.

(p) In case a hospital is built he asks for full supply of hospital supplies, list of same to be obtained from some reputable institution.

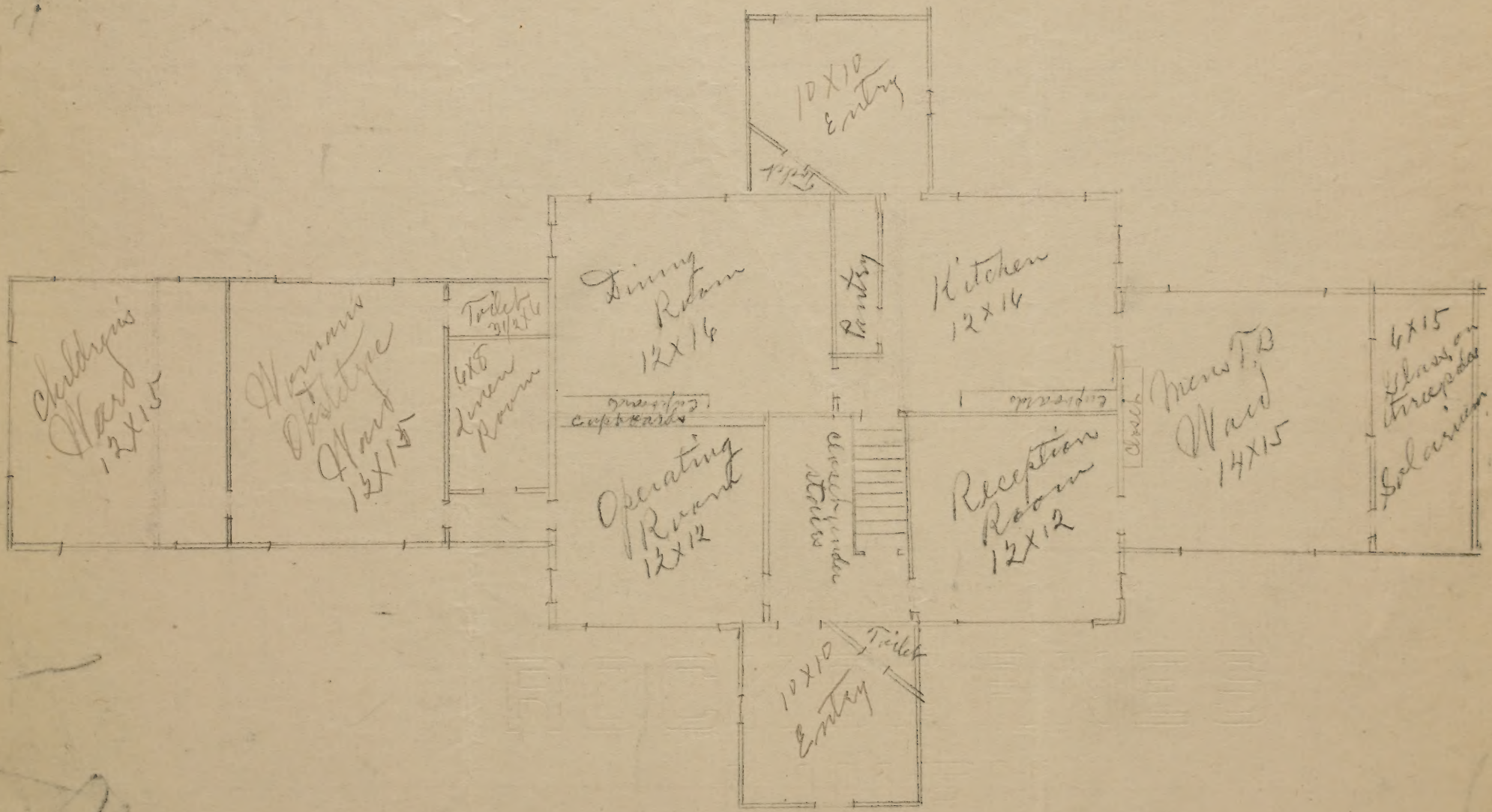
This long letter is my attempt to assist in providing for the efficient continuance of our Barrow work and this purpose is the explanation for the great length of the same.

Cordially yours,

James N. Condit.

Copy to Dr. Spence

Scale 8 feet to inch.
Plan for elevation like that in accompanying "An Arctic Hospital."



First Floor

SEP 24 1920

FIRE PROOF CABLE ADDRESS TELFRYE EUROPEAN

SEATTLE'S NEWEST AND LARGEST HOTEL

HOTEL FRYE

DAN W. BASS AND P. H. WATT
MANAGERS

SEATTLE

September 16, 1920.

SUBJECT: -- Barrow.

Rev. J.A. Marquis, D.D.
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Marquis:-

In addition to the "General Letter" enclosed, I offer the following particulars relative to Barrow.

1. -- Equipment.

Our equipment consists of Church and Manse. The latter is a story and one-half house, with four good rooms downstairs, and two large and one small room upstairs. One of the front rooms downstairs is used as a dispensary. The building is in good state of repair. Most of the furnishings belong to the house. Dr. Spence has given me a list of a few articles belonging to him personally, which we should take over when he quits the field. The Church is an attractive building with galleries on two sides and a seating capacity of approximately 250. It is seated with home made benches, has a good stove, organ and bell, and is well painted, and in good repair.

2. -- People and Reindeer.

There are 250 people at Barrow proper; 50 at Point Barrow, sixteen miles to the Northward; 200 along the Coast Eastward, to Demarcation Point, at the Boundary line, and 200 to the Westward, as far as and including Icy Cape. This makes a total population of approximately 700 people centering at Barrow, who are within reach of the Hospital. The reindeer herds now near Barrow, now number approximately 4000. There must be at least 200,000 domestic reindeers in Alaska at this time.

3. -- Dr. & Mrs. Spence.

In accordance with your instructions, I conveyed to Dr. and Mrs. Spence your personal greetings and assurances. The good work that Dr. Spence has done at Barrow is evident. At the ringing of the bell in the afternoon of the day we were at Barrow, 150 people gathered, although the "BEAR" and

another boat were at anchor near the shore, and much excitement was resultant. Services are held twice every Sunday at Barrow and once at Point Barrow sixteen miles away. In addition two or three week day appointments are regularly maintained by Mr. and Mrs. Spence.

These good people must be relieved at the end of this year, and should have been brought out this year, but for the extraordinary demands of the building of the Hospital they would have returned to the States on the "BEAR". They and especially Dr. Spence, are in need of attention for eyes and teeth. In addition they are in a highly unbalanced nervous state. The misunderstanding between Government Teachers and our Missionaries is more prominent than ever. It has come to the stage where nothing that the teachers do seems good in our Missionaries eyes, and vice versa. I regret to say that some of those whome we have just taken to this place are already taking sides in the quarrel, and I came away with grave apprehension as to the coming Winter. So critical did the situation seem to me, that I told Dr. Spence that if he felt that they could not endure the situation, I would take the responsibility of bringing him out with me, but he elected to remain another year.

Two things should be sought for another year, (1) Not only the release of Dr. and Mrs. Spence, but also that of Mr. and Mrs. Cram from the Bureau of Education Work. They are also in a highly nervous state, and are no longer fit to do acceptable work in their place. In their present condition they will be a source of trouble to any Missionary we might send. (2) The Board should at once begin a search for a strong, capable, young physician, who is married, to succeed Dr. Spence next year. Miss Jordan suggests that the Board correspond with Dr. Joshua Van Cott, Brooklyn Hospital, Brooklyn, N.Y., in regard to a young physician for this place. Of course it would be essential that he be a Christian man, and willing to accept ordination.

Dr. Spence complained rather bitterly that he received no communications from the Board, excepting those that came by Summer mail. I would call attention to the fact that there are three Winter mails for Barrow, leaving Kotzebue Nov. 1st, Jan. 1st and March 1st. Mail from New York should be sent at least two months prior to these dates in order to assure their reaching Kotzebue in time. It is too late now for you to make the first mail, but may I suggest that letters and Christmas Greetings be sent to Dr. Spence and wife to catch the January mail, and that similar Greetings be sent to all the Workers, namely, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Eide, Mr. and Mrs. M.A.Brown, and Miss May Olive Jordan. In the same mails Dr. and Mrs. Greist should be remembered.

4. -- The New Hospital.

A site for the Hospital was selected not far from the Beach and near the Manse. The land at this point is favorable, because sharply sloping to the beach, thus providing basement space without much excavation. The latter is very difficult since the ground is frozen the year round. There seemed to be help available amongst the Esquimos. The larger part of the freight was already on the beach on Aug. 28th, and all things being equal, the building should be enclosed before cold weather, so that work may continue this Winter. The question has been raised, as to whether the building planned is not too large considering the cost and difficulty of heating. The attention of the Board is called to the fact that coal from Wainwright for this year cost $50.00 per ton delivered at Barrow, and that coal from the outside cost $84.00 per ton for delivery alone. Adding to this the first cost, will probably bring the total up to $95.00 per ton. The Board must face the immense cost of providing fuel for the Barrow plant, now much increased by the building of the Hospital. I am sending by this mail a sample of the Wainwright coal for your inspection. After investigation on the field I am satisfied that our Mission should depend in part on this coal. It will probably be necessary to send a certain proportion of outside coal each year, especially to use in the cooking ranges. If properly handled the Wainwright coal should supply the heating in a large measure. I am of the opinion that a better rate than that paid this year, not only on coal, but also on all Barrow shipments, can be obtained by contract with the H. Liebes Company, of San Francisco, who operate the Store at Barrow. This should be investigated early. It would probably effect a large saving.

In this connection attention should be called to the exorbitant cost of Wainwright coal. The Bureau of Education Co-Operative Store charges $20.00 per ton for this coal at the mine. The freight charges by common carrier is $30.00 per ton, although in past years Captain Backland, who is now in Europe, carried this coal for as low as $5.00 per ton. It is to be hoped that this freight charge will be largely reduced, when the Bureau of Education boat, now projected, is in operation, presumably next year. It would appear that the present price paid the Natives for mining of 75¢ per sack, is out of all proportion, and should be reduced to at least 25¢ per sack. If this coal were mined on a systematic basis and by competent workmen, it ought to be sold for at least one-half of the present price.

5. -- The Eides.

I am much afraid that trouble will follow the entrance of the Eides upon this work. This will be on account of Mr. Eide's arrogance and conceit, in Seattle and elsewhere. In spite of the definite instructions of the various Members of the Board, as well as of Mr. Gould and myself, he succeeded in announcing through the Press that he was on his way to Barrow " To take charge of the Presbyterian Hospital there". He is presumptive, ignorant and lacking in judgment. If I am not mistaken, he will insist on doing the things he is not fitted for, and will neglect that for which he is only fit, namely, as General Helper, Janitor, and Man-of-all-work. I consider it unfortunate that he was brought to New York and thus made to feel that he is an essential element in the work. He was discredited as a teacher in Alaska, and is generally disliked where known. Mrs. Eides is by far the better member of the firm, and if encouraged by her husband and unhindered, will be a valuable asset.

6. ~~--~~ General.

The people at Barrow white and native, are grateful for this new Ministry. Mr. C.T.Brower, who has been so long in charge of the Trading Station at Barrow, and who has been a stanch supporter of Dr. Spence, came down on the "VICTORIA" with me, and plans to be in New York before returning next Summer. I have urged him to call on you and confer in regard to the work at Barrow. While in Nome I met the famous Explorer, Amundsen, who now is on his way to the North Pole, and told him of our plans, which he heartily commended. The Presbyterians has a unique privilege in serving the point "farthest North" in physical and spiritual things, and is entitled to make the most of this fact as an incentive to liberal contributions and sympathetic interest in ~~its~~ Their Missionary enterprises,

Yours sincerely.

James A Gould

General Missionary.

AUG 7 - 1918

(Copy)

Rec/ 7-23

Written at Point Barrow, Alaska.
27th February, 1918..

My dear John:

Contrary to my previous information I find that the mail which leaves here on the 1st March will probably get outside before the summer, so I take the opportunity of acquainting you of our arrival at the most northerly point of Alaska, and of sending you a letter from what the residents here assert is the most northerly post office in the world.

The journey hither from Point Hope was hard. There can be no bleaker or more desolate country in the world, and the winds sweep over it bitterly and incessantly. For the greater part of the 350 or 400 miles our way lay along the beach - the rough sea-ice on our left hand, the low-lying snow-covered tundra on our right. Sometimes for days together we were upon the surface of lagoons, separated from the sea by narrow sand-spits. For two days we travelled in one continuous blinding snowstorm with a perfect hurricane of wind. Fortunately it was from the south; had it been against us neither dog nor man could have faced it. The snow was driven into everything; inside our grub-box with the lid on, covered and re-covered with the sled cloth, lashed on, we found snow. Inside the pages of my diary, fastened in its leather case and the case within the hind-sack of the sled, tied down with a moosehide flap, was snow. It seems almost impossible to exclude this finely-powdered, fiercely-driven snow by any carefulness of packing. We have nothing like these storms in the interior. On other days a keen light air that cut like a knife blew against us at 30 deg. below zero. My nose was frozen so often that I cannot now tell by the sensation

in it whether it be frozen or not, and when we reached Wainwright it began to resemble the nose of a late eminent financier whom I used to see at the General Conventions.

Our shelters at night were Eskimo igloos which are to be found along this coast at intervals of from 20 to 35 miles, often at the mouths of small rivers. Sometimes they were occupied, and then the addition of my party crowded them unconscionably so that there was no room for comfortable sleeping; sometimes they were empty and then we had to depend upon our primus stove for cooking and warmth - and were miserable enough. I should say that the chief hardship of travel on this coast is the wretched character of the night rests. If a man can be comfortable at night he can stand hard travel and exposure all day, but when his nights are cheerless as well it is tough work.

When we reached Wainwright we had been travelling eleven days, and the kind and generous hospitality of the government teacher and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Earle Forrest, was very highly appreciated. One must travel this coast to understand what such entertainment means. For three days we lay there - the whole while a fierce snowstorm raged - and they were days of feasting and delicious rest. I held service twice for the native people, and baptized half a dozen children, and was loath to depart again. We made the 100 miles to Point Barrow in three days and are most kindly received by the old-time trader here, Mr. Brower. Dr. Spence and his wife, the Presbyterian missionaries, had expected to take me in, but I did not wish to separate from Walter and my stuff, and their accommodation and convenience were very limited.

I wish this mission were ours, with all my heart. Here is poor Dr. Spence lamenting that he has no hospital and no nurse, no facility for his work, no chance to attack with any prospect of success, the great amount of tuberculous disease he finds here - and all the prestige and glamour of this Farthest North Mission wasting for want of someone who can take it and coin it into the necessary funds for the proper prosecution of its great work. What would you think if I should write an article about it for the Presbyterian "Spirit of Missions"? I may overestimate my capacity - but I really think I could get them what they need. This is the largest Eskimo village on the whole coast; there are between 500 and 600 natives here and hereabouts, and pulmonary tuberculosis is threatening the whole settlement.

In the opinion of folks here our troubles will begin when we start eastward, and the chief reason is the absence of dog-feed. So far we have fed our dogs upon seal meat, oogarok meat (that is the giant seal), whale meat, and fish of all kinds. But along the north shore the great sea mammals are not caught save in the fall, for the hunting of them can take place only when the ice parts from the shore and leaves open water - which does not happen on the north coast as it does on the west. We are facing the necessity of hauling corn meal, rice and seal oil, for the greater part of the journey, and that means heavy loads. It also means cooking for the dogs every night, and that means camping where there is drift wood, which, fortunately, is much more plentiful ahead of us than it has been behind.

Our wait of two weeks here is as much that the season may advance and the sun climb high, as for the refreshment of ourselves and our dogs and the acquaintance with the missionary activ-

ities of this place. Leaving here about the middle of March, the long days will already be with us, and by the time (one month, I hope) that we reach Herschel Island, there will be no more than a few hours darkness, so rapidly does the sun advance in these latitudes after the equinox is passed. Here at Point Barrow by the 20th April it is light enough to see to shoot all night, and on the 11th May the sun is seen at midnight. Herschel Island is, of course, farther south, but not so much farther as to make great difference.

I must write many letters to go south with this mail, and that they may be many they must be short. To write short letters is my greatest task and trial; they grow under my hand and as their length grows their number necessarily diminishes.

Fort Yukon will be my next place of writing, and I am in hope, by the Grace of God, to send you a communication thence by 1st May. I think I will telegraph you of my safe return, in which case the message will reach you before this letter.

My warm regards and best wishes to yourself and Mrs. Wood - to Miss Hitchings and Mrs. Hore and all my friends at the Missions House. I wonder if the same coloured Isaac - was it not - is still running the elevator? Remember me to him.

Affectionately yours,

Hudson Stuck.

To

Dr. John Wilson Wood.

ARCHDEACON STUCK
FORT YUKON, ALASKA

Personal - Official. G.

Fort Yukon, Alaska, 10th May 1918.

To The Reverend
Dr. S. Hall Young.

Dear Dr. Young:

I am writing to let you know that I am safely returned from my long winter journey around the arctic coast of Alaska, and to thank you for your kind offices in procuring me such a cordial reception at Point Barrow.

My stay there, of more than two weeks, gave me opportunity for a sufficiently close acquaintance with the activities of the Presbyterian mission at that place to appraise their value very highly. In Dr. Spence you have an efficient and most kindly representative; a man, I am convinced, of the sweetest and gentlest type of Christian character, whom I found beloved and valued by whites and natives alike. (I wish we had such a physician at Point Hope.)

But Dr. Spence is greatly handicapped by the lack of facilities for the treatment of the sick. There is no place of any kind in that large village where the sick may be cared for in separation from the well, and Dr. Spence lamented again and again that in the treatment of tuberculosis (which is terribly rife) he was virtually helpless because of this lack.

(Upon thought, I recall that this claim is unsubstantial. Upernavik in Greenland being beyond the 72nd parallel and I know there is a church & a clergyman and a physician there - but most northerly in America is good enough.)

I wonder if it would be presumptuous in me to offer to write an article for some Presbyterian missionary publication touching the need of an hospital at Point Barrow? Surely a place with all the romance ~~not only~~ of the most northerly situation in America, (but, I believe, in the whole world (for I cannot find that there is any definitely-located religious work in Siberia further to the north) where missionary work is carried on, should be able to get all that it needs with the utmost readiness. I wrote to Bishop Rowe from Point Barrow that I was strongly tempted to turn Presbyterian for one winter that I might go out and secure the funds for the establishment and maintenance of an adequate hospital at Point Barrow. We consider here on the Yukon that a physician, two nurses (for one invariably breaks down in even a single case of serious & protracted sickness, and however competent and however devoted a woman may be she must sleep) a matron and a male orderly (native) constitute the minimum working staff of a real hospital. With such an establishment Dr. Spence could attack the ~~situation~~ condition with regard to tuberculosis with some prospect of success. I went his sick rounds with him one day and another day was present at his office clinic, and I realize in some measure the inroads of that disease. He told me there was scarce one family in the place that he would be able to certify as free from all taint.

I was rejoiced that ~~the service~~
Divine Service at Point Barrow was conducted
in the native tongue and would urge the
extension of the translations especially by com-
parison with the considerable ~~extensive~~ Bible translations
made at Herschel Island, where the language
differs only slightly; and I would urge the printing
of the service. I sent to Dr Spence a copy of
the Bible translations referred to. At present the
native service used is only in MS. At our
mission at Point Hope the whole service is in
English, and I am sure it is unintelligible to
a large number of the people. If the Bible lessons
must be interpreted as read, and every word of
address, I am always sceptical about the understanding
of English prayers & hymns.

(I count myself fortunate in having
had such unusual opportunity of comparing the
work done by the Society of Friends at Kotzebue,
the Episcopal Church at Point Hope, the Pres-
byterian Church at Point Barrow and the
Church of England at Herschel Island. Between
ourselves it has not left me proud of our work at Pt Hope,
and I shall proceed to get myself still more
disliked by a vigorous effort to secure change and
improvement.)

Omit

The winter journey was arduous and
long, but the severity of weather experienced is swallowed
up in my mind by the recollection of the cordiality

and kindness which I met everywhere; from whites and natives alike. As regards the latter in general, I think there are no native people anywhere on the earth so richly entitled to the indulgent consideration of civilized mankind as the Eskimos; for there cannot be anywhere else such brave and resolute and light-hearted folk in such an utterly barren & naked land, pitting themselves against such ferocity of wind and cold. I am glad to have seen them; glad to know them; glad to have passed entirely around that dreary, savage coast. The skin has now returned to my nose and my cheeks and I am rested from the inordinate fatigues I have endured, so that, on retrospect, the pleasant things tend to their usual prominence. But I have no desire to revisit that coast again, and in ~~any~~ such further travel in Alaska as may fall to my lot, purpose keeping strictly within the timber.

With kind regard & best wishes,

I am, faithfully Yours.

Hudson Stuck

August 26, 1918.

Rev. John W. Wood, D. C. L.,
281 Fourth Avenue,
New York City.

My dear Dr. Wood:

Kindly pardon the delay in thanking you very heartily for your kindness in sending a copy of Archdeacon Stuck's letter to me about Point Barrow. It was an exceedingly gracious and generous offer on his part to write an article pleading for the hospital at Point Barrow. The Archdeacon has also written our Dr. S. Hall Young concerning this matter. We will give it consideration and report will be made. As you can understand our forces are widely scattered during this summer season. When we get together again we will decide about Point Barrow.

With warmest personal regards, I am,

Cordially yours,

AUG 7 - 1918

THE RIGHT REV. ARTHUR S. LLOYD, D.D.
PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF MISSIONS.
JOHN WILSON WOOD, D.C.L.
FOREIGN SECRETARY.
DOMESTIC SECRETARY.
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THE DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY
OF THE PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH
IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
CHURCH MISSIONS HOUSE, 281 FOURTH AVENUE

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE
THE SPIRIT OF MISSIONS
ONE DOLLAR A YEAR.

NEW YORK August 6, 1918

Reverend John Dixon, D.D.,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Dr. Dixon:

You will be interested I know in the enclosed copy of a letter from Archdeacon Stuck of Alaska which has just made about a five months' journey from Point Barrow. I am sending it to you because of the question Archdeacon Stuck asks on page 3. If you care to have me do so, I will be glad to come over and talk about the matter. I am not quite so keen as the Archdeacon is about trying to secure funds on the basis of the "glamour of the Farthest North Mission." That, however, is a matter of which we can talk later.

I met a couple of good friends of yours on the Jersey Coast last month. Mrs. Greene, of Trenton and Mrs. Gilmour of this city. I find that we hold some opinions in common concerning you.

Sincerely yours,

JWW/W

September
Eleven
1920.

Mr. Arthur Side,
Barrow, Alaska.
My dear Mr. Side:-

For various reasons, chiefly that of the health of Mrs. Spence and myself, it is imperative that we leave Barrow at this time.

In the mean time until the Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. shall send other medical and religious workers to take our places, I commission you and Mrs. Side to carry on as much of this work as you are able to do.

You are still under Mr. Brown and hence most of your week day time must necessarily be spent in his service.

This means that you are temporarily the mission representatives until others are sent in or you hear from the Board in New York.

Cordially, F. H. Spence

Barrow, Alaska.
September
Twenty-sixth
1 9 2 0 .

Elders, Trustees, Members,
Barrow Presbyterian Church.
Dearly Beloved:-

Mrs. Spence and myself are leaving you at this time, first because of our health. Mrs. Spence is having trouble both with her eyes and teeth.

Last May I found I had serious trouble with both my eyes. We are leaving, second, because we think we can be of more help to you outside this year. May the Lord keep you faithful to Him,

Your fellow workers,

Mrs. J. S. Spence
Dr. J. H. Spence.

October 27, 1920.

Dr. T. N. Spence,
Point Barrow,
Alaska.

Dear Dr. Spence:

This is just a note of Christmas greeting to you, Mrs. Spence and to the congregation over which you preside. May God give you all the joys that Christ has brought into the world through the Christmas season.

We pray for you at our meetings here regularly and are especially asking God's blessing upon your work and the needy people in view of the hospital which we trust is now in operation. Write us often.

Sincerely yours,

San Francisco, Cal.
November 11, 1920.

Mr. Varian Banks, Asst. Treasurer,
New York, N. Y.
156 Fifth Ave.

My dear Mr. Banks:-

Mrs. Spence and myself arrived in San Francisco On the Gas Steamer "Herman" day before yesterday having sailed from Barrow the twenty sixth of September. Enclosed you will find copies of letters written by us on leaving to Mr. Arthur Tide and to the Elders, Trustees and Members of the Barrow Presbyterian Church, which are self explanatory. Truth compells me to admit the reasons given were not the only ones or the final ones that decided us to come out at this time. We desired to remain until next summer, first because we love to work with the Eskimos of Barrow, they are a lovable people deserving of better things. Second they need a spiritual leader, third they need a doctor, fourth, we had asked to remain last year before we knew what the year had in store for us and wished to stay until we could be properly relieved, and lastly we needed to remain financially.

Captain C.T. Peterxxx son of the "Herman" was untiring in his kindness during the six weeks xx trip and has refused to receive any compensation for our passage notwithstanding much urging. This is partly due to some technicality in reguard to carrying passengers. It happens that in 1908, 1909 and 1910 we took care of his little son for three years while he wasx two, three x and four years of agex in the Jesse Lee Home at Unalaska, Alaska.

He is now a young man of sixteen an efficient helper to xx his father. We were fortunate in persuading his father to give him an opportunity to advance his education next year and it has occurred to us it would be a good thing for your Board to send the young man Teddy Peterson (correct to Theodore Pedersen Jr.) care of M. Liebes Co. 167 Post St. San Francisco, Cal. a draft for say $250.00 as compensation for our trip out and to help the boy. I think Captain Pedersen plans to xxx call on your Board in New York sometime in the near future.

You doubtless know before this of the safe arrival of both the "Fox" and the "Olga" with lumber and equipment. The outside coal was reported at thirty tons but I am sure fell short, just how much I do not know. Only twenty five tons of coal came from Wainwright. I enclose a picture of the hospital building taken Sept. 15 . You have doubtless received better and later pictures.

In the inventory last year was 15,000 shingles. Mr. Brower asked me to let him have them and he would replace them when the "Fox" came or pay for them in cash. When we came to count them out we found there were eighty three bundles, or over 20,000. He used the 20,000 Also a keg of shinglex nails and a few bundles of building paper.

The above is there to the credit of the Board.

You will remember you allowed me $100.00 as a "Sick Fund". Something like half of that was used before we came away. A bill will be rendered by the Cape Smythe Whaling and Trading Co. Mr. Brower's company.

We expect to go to Los Angeles in a few days. Will you write me there as soon as you receive this saying what, if anything your Board may want of us during the coming year. We will be under the necessity of making our plans for the coming year soon. Address us at 505 North Ave. 65. With many thanks for all the kindnesses we have received from your Board,

Cordially,

F. H. Spence

San Diego, Cal. Dec. 6, 1920.

Dr. John Dixon,

New York, N. Y.

156 Fifth Ave.

My dear Dr. Dixon:-

Your letter of the twenty third of November is received and I will try to answer it as far as I am able at this time. I have just completed a letter to Dr. Marquis in which I quote the three things you wish to have information about. I would be glad if you would talk the matter over with him.

You refer in the beginning of your letter to a letter received from Miss. Jordan, allow me to say that I had nothing to do with the writing of that letter in any way. It was read to us before it was sent, so we know the contents of it, which were true. I did write a letter at the earnest solicitation of some of the white people at Barrow, to which she refers, but on mature deliberation decided not to send it but wrote the one you received instead.

As I have written to Dr. Marquis it does not seem wise to me to discuss the difficult and delicate questions involved in bettering conditions at Point Barrow by letter, they are of too serious a nature to be handled successfully in that way.

I am willing in the interest of the Eskimo whom we dearly love to meet you and Dr. Marquis and explain the situation from the standpoint of our five years experience but in order to have this of benefit to the Eskimo it will be necessary for me to criticise some of the things that were done and some that were not done. I am sure this occurred because of a lack of understanding of conditions on the part of the Board. If in any way I have been unfortunate in wording this letter will you please overlook it, not in my interest but in the interest of the people we have learned to love and whose best interest we desire to serve. It will be necessary for me to ask you to write me directing to Los Angeles, Cal. [illegible] North Ave. 65. Cordially,

F. N. Spence.

DEC 13 1920

San Diego, Cal.
December
Sixth
1920.

Rev. John A. Marquis, D.D.
New York, N. Y.
156 Fifth Ave.

My dear Dr. Marquis:-

The only letter I ever received from you was the one you wrote me from Nome after you failed to reach Barrow on account of the ice. On the strength of that letter I wrote you several letters but as I knew you were a very busy man and doing all you could to supply our needs I have not written you of late.

As soon as we arrived in SanFrancisco I wrote the "Board" to that effect and received a letter from Mr. Varian Banks in which were these words,"Dr. Marquis will probably reply to the last paragraph in your letter in which you ask what,if anything,this Board will want of you during the coming year." I also received a letter from Dr. John Dixon in which he asks the following three questions. First:-If it shall be deemed wise to ask you to return and take up your work there next summer,it is necessary for us that we should know all the facts which have led you to withdraw from Point Barrow. Second-: If you are not to return and another missionary(medical) is to be secured,it is due him that he should be sufficiently informed with reguard to Point Barrow that when he arrives there he will not have the right to think that he has been misled. Third.:- It is possible,and indeed probable,that it will be necessary for us to confer with the Government in reguard to the people of Point Barrow and their needs. To do this we must know exectly what those needs are from the standpoint both of education and religion and of sanitary conditions".

I am enclosing a copy of a letter written by me to your Board dealing with the Sabbath question and the methods employed by the Bureau of Education for the past twenty five years. I see no reason to change any thing there written. About three years ago I wrote your Board of some things that were happening at Barrow. I made no statement but what can be proven.

The things I am asked to discuss are of a delicate and complicated nature and there are many opportunities for them to be misunderstood in a letter,leading to an almost endless correspondence and lack of understanding. Mrs. Spence and myself have come out not intending to return. The only thing that would induce us to return would be your inability to get any good M.D. to go up there at this time and even then we would not go unless some changes were made. The information That Dr. Dixon asks for can only be given satisfactorily by a personal interview with a willingness on the part of the Board to give a sympathetic hearing even though it may be necessary to listen to adverse criticism. Only so can the evils that

exist there be corrected. Believe me Dr. Marquis I am writing this part of my letter in prayer and supplication that I may be guided to use the right words and the right expressions and show only the Christian spirit that the very best thing may be done for the best interest of the Eskimo people whom we dearly love.

Could we have our greatest wish fulfilled it would be to have a heart to heart talk with you face to face. It might require patience on both sides, but it is only so the problems of this far away people can be solved.

Cordially,

F. H. Spence

On account of the uncertainty of our address at present I am asking you to write to 505 North Ave. 65, Los Angeles, Cal. our son's address.

December 15, 1920.

Rev. F. H. Spence, D. D.,
505 Avenue 65, North,
Los Angeles, California.

My dear Dr. Spence:

Your letter written from San Diego December 6th has just reached me and I am very glad to get it. I was deeply disappointed when I learned that you and Miss Jordan had left Point Barrow as I had been counting on your staying there until the hospital was finished and started on its ministry of healing. I understood, furthermore, that it was your desire to remain throughout this winter. However, we need not discuss that now.

I am anxious to hear what you have to say in regard to the work at Barrow. I know there have been complications with the Government teachers there, but such matters belong to the history of all mission work and have either to be endured or surmounted in one way or another. We are not justified in running away from a post where we believe our Lord has assigned us because some outside party makes trouble. We are pretty well acquainted with the authorities of the Bureau of Education both in Washington and in Seattle, and will be glad to take up with them any matters concerning the welfare of the Eskimo people. I have talked the situation over with both Mr. Lopp and Mr. Claxton and they have assured me of their entire willingness to cooperate in serving the highest interest of those fine people in the North, among whom you have done such splendid service.

The Rev. William P. Shriver, D. D., a member of the staff of our Board, and head of the Department of City and Immigrant Work, is spending the winter in Pasadena. His address is 1425 Locust Street, Pasadena, California. I wish very much that you would have a talk with him as soon as you conveniently can and tell him all your heart, holding back nothing. I have written Dr. Shriver that I am asking you to do this, so he will be expecting you. What the Board is anxious about is to do the thing that will advance the best interests of the Eskimo people. The money for the hospital was given to us by the Commonwealth Fund of this city and it embarrasses us not a little that we have no physician there now to manage the hospital, and for that reason we want to get your statement of why you left so clearly before them that they will not feel that we have acted in bad faith in getting them to build a hospital and then not furnishing a physician to manage it. I must make it clear to them some way or other that the Board is innocent in this matter and that we will get another physician to go just as speedily as possible. Will you please make all this very clear to Dr. Shriver so he will be able, when he returns to New York, which will be shortly, to make it clear to us. It may be that we will want you to come to New York for a conference. Our first desire, however, is that you get a good rest, which we realize you deserve. We do not want to distress you with any worries until you have had time to get on your feet again physically. When you are fully restored to health we may want you not only to come here for a conference, but also to speak in some of the churches in behalf of the work at Point

Barrow. Will you please, therefore, see Dr. Shriver as soon as you can and have him communicate with us.

The Executive Council at its meeting yesterday directed the Treasurer to pay your salary up until April 1st next. We believe you are entitled to this on account of the faithful and self-sacrificing service you have performed at Barrow.

I am enclosing a leaflet we have gotten out concerning the Point Barrow Hospital. If you have any photographs or further material in regard to your work there we will be glad to have them.

We are already looking for some physician and his wife, together with a nurse, to go to Point Barrow next summer. Will you please keep your eye open for any possibilities that may be in Los Angeles. You know the qualifications. We do not want to experiment on anybody of whose entire consecration to Christ there is doubt.

Let me assure you again of our profound interest in you and appreciation of the work you have done. Remember me most kindly to Mrs. Spence. Wishing you both all the joys of the blessed Christmas season, I am

Very sincerely yours,

JAM:MS

P. S. I have a sister living in Los Angeles whose husband is an eye, ear and throat specialist. I am sure they will be glad to see anybody who has been connected with this Board. It might be that Dr. McClelland will be able to help you. My brother-in-law's name is Dr. E. S. McClelland. His office is at 6th and Hill Street. You no doubt can find his residence address in the telephone book.

December 15, 1920.

Mr. W. B. Van Valin,
602 Redfield Avenue,
Los Angeles, California.

My dear Mr. Van Valin:

Thanks very much for your letter of December 1st with reference to Dr. Spence. He has also written me and I am replying, asking him to see our Dr. W. P. Shriver, who is spending the winter in Pasadena. I have encouraged him to pour out his heart to Dr. Shriver unreservedly. It may be that we will want him to come to New York later, but our first concern is that he be fully restored to health before undertaking so long and hard a journey. We have the highest appreciation of his services at Point Barrow and the deepest sympathy with him in his failing health and in the difficulties he met there. It was quite a disappointment to us, in view of the fact that we were sending a hospital so far North, that he did not remain there until next summer in accordance with his original intention. But he doubtless had a good reason for leaving and we will have to make the best of it.

I appreciate also your interest in the Eskimo people and I know you have their welfare at heart. We are looking now for another physician, together with a nurse to go there and take charge of things as soon as navigation opens. We have not yet, however, succeeded in finding any one.

Thanking you for your letter and wishing you all the joys of the season, I am

Very sincerely yours,

JAM:ES

MAR 7 1921

Los Angeles, Cal. March 1, 1921.

My dear Dr. Marquis,

In a letter written by you Dec. 15th you request me to meet Rev. William P. Shriver, D. D. at Los Angeles and talk over the problems at Barrow. We met Dr. Shriver by appointment at Los Angeles on Jan. 6th and after a three hours conference he told us "to camp around here until we heard fro the Board." During this time we have been speaking every Sunday in some of the churches and frequently during the week, Mrs. Spence before the missionary societies, C. E. and Sunday Schools and I usually in the Sunday morning services and the Wednesday prayer meeting. More than once young people as well as old have come to us and said it was the best missionary talk they had ever listened to. This is the work we are now doing. The first week in February we received a letter from Dr. Condit, a copy of which he said he was sending to you, in reguard to Rev. R. J. Dixon coming to the General Assembly as Commissioner in our place providing you made some other arrangement for us. Not hearing from you we inferred you had written direct to Dr. Condit ~~direct~~, whether rightly or not I do not know. Unless we do hear from you we shall not expect to attend the General Assembly. There is an old saying, "Plan your work, and work your plan." Without intending to be irreverent I am thinking of the words of Jesus when he said "There shall be two in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left." only we seem to be neither "taken" or "left". However there is doubtless some good reason. When we went to Barrow we wrote to Mr. Olin for over a year, then to Mr. Banks, then we were asked to write to Dr. Dixon and then came the announcement of your coming and its disappointment and then your direction to meet Dr. Shriver. All the time we were in correspondence with Dr. Condit. Is it a thing to be wondered at if we are some what confused? The last of January we received forty letters from the people at Barrow. They tell us they cried when we came away, this we knew, They tell us they could not sleep, they tell us they were sick from grief because we were gone and they throw much light on the situation there after we left. Knowing each person that wrote personally of course we understand as a stranger could not. We have all of those letters and would be glad to go over them with you if the opportunity arises. Trusting this letter may not be thought an intrusion and hoping for some definite information ere long and desiring to be helpful in any way we possibly can,

Cordially,

F. H. Spence

Rev. John A. Marquis, D. D.
156 Fifth Ave. New York, N. Y.

MAR 28 1921

Los Angeles, Cal.

March

Twenty-thir

1 9 2 1 .

Rev. John A. Marquis, D. D.
156 Fifth Ave.
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Marquis:-

Your letter of recent date asking Mrs. Spence and I if we would like to travel and speak about our people, the Eskimos, and the work at Barrow is received.

We can think of nothing we would enjoy more. Not only have they written us of their sorrow at our coming away but have closed their letters to us by calling us "Our Father," and "Our Mother," and "Our relations", and have urged us if we could not return ourselves to find a good doctor, a good missionary and a good nurse and to ask the people on the "outside" to pray for them.

It will be a privilege as well as a joy to tell of a people, who, in the words of Archdeacon Stuck, "I think there are no native people anywhere on the earth so richly entitled to the indulgent consideration of civilized mankind as the Eskimos," challenge our thought.

We have learned to love them even as they have shown their love for us and appreciation of all we have tried to do for them.

Cordially,

F. H. Spence

COPY.

Barrow, Alaska, August 24, 1918.
Rec'd Oct. 9/18

Mr. Varian Banks, Asst. Treasurer,
New York, N. Y.
156 Fifth Ave.

My dear Mr. Banks:-

This is the third or fourth letter I have written you and the others are still here in the P.O. The Polar Bear arrived here from the East last week and we supposed she was going outside at once but the ice came in and she is hiding around Point Barrow to get away from the crush and is still there.

Your statements of the payment to Capt. Backland of $56.64 of my grocery bill for 1917 at his store and of $36.15 to balance lumber bill for church is correct. Glad also to receive a statement of my personal account. Will you please send me a statement of my personal account once a year, so I may keep things straight in my own mind. Please send me a draft for the balance due me for our second year and enough added to make it $500.00 from our third year account.

Also, please send to Miss Minnie A. Stow, Long Beach, Cal., 426 Lime Ave., $31.20, and charge to my account. I have ordered a bill of eye glasses from F. W. Woolworth Co., 1305 Second Ave., Seattle, Wash., and asked them tosend the bill for you to pay. Please charge it to my account. The natives here many of them need glasses.

Have also sent an order to Lomen Brothers, Nome, Alaska, for drugs, as the drugs for this year are at Wainwright and I find by the bill they are not sufficient for the coming year. You may charge this to my account. The Herman when it came brought us the worst epidemic of grippe we have had since we came. Already we have had two deaths and some of our medicines are all gone.

Two years ago when Capt. Backland was here for the last time, he brought us thirty tons of hard coal, as we had specified when we came up here we should have forty tons a year for the mission and church, I had him leave ten tons more and wrote you I had done this that we might be sure of having enough in case ships could not get up here another year, and that a supply for two years should always be here to provide for such a contingency. When the Bender Brothers came the next year with not a pound of coal for the mission my heart was like lead. I found also my supply of coal was less than I supposed. Capt. Backland told me he had 606 sacks of coal for the thirty tons, but when we counted it into the coal house we found only 525 sacks. The Capt. told Mr. Haussen to let us have ten tons more but we only received 90 sacks instead of between 150 and 200 sacks as we should have had. I am sure Capt. Backland thought we had all that was coming to us, but in some way not understood the above was all we had. Accordingly we have had a hard time to keep warm the last year. Before the ships came I took the matter up with Mr. Brower as explained in my previous letter.

This seems the year we have dreaded ever since we came here. The ice did not leave here until the first of August. On the third the Herman arrived and during that week the Bender Brothers and the Ana Alga came and went east. Then the ice closed in again for a week and opened the second time for about a week. It was just at the last of this open period Mr. Brower sent the boats to Wainwright and they got back with two hundred and fifty sacks of coal, which are

now in our coal house and are all we have so far. The ice closed in the night they came right after them so that one boat did not get through but is still down the coast somewhere. The ice at this writing is packed against this coast as far as we can see and the wind still unfavorable. This is the situation here at present. We have two hundred and fifty sacks of coal, the government teachers less than one hundred sacks, Mr. and Mrs. Van Valin no coal at all, and Mr. Brower thirty-five tons brought by the Herman for his own use and twelve tons that he promised we should have, but owing to the serious condition existing here he is holding until he sees whether any more coal can be brought here this year from Wainwright. If the ice does not open again the probability is the four ships to the east may have to be fed and kept warm. That is the condition we are facing now. We can keep from freezing to death with the coal we now have probably, but unless more coal can be brought here before cold weather sets in the condition is serious. It is gambling with human life to depend on bringing coal from Wainwright by whale boats any year.

Last spring Mr. Brower offered the natives at Wainwright two dollars a sack for every sack they would bring to Barrow and not a sack has been brought. They, I mean the Government, has paid the natives always fifty cents a sack for every sack of coal they dug at Wainwright for the government school. They were allowed to go and dig all the coal they wanted for themselves for nothing. When Mr. Brower found we were going out unless we could get coal, he hired eight whale boats and paid them each forty dollars to carry down some merchandise to his store at Wainwright, and told them he would pay them two dollars a sack for every sack they brought back. Hazardous as the trip was the natives undertook it because they needed the money and because they did not want us to leave. When they got the coal the government teacher there charged them one dollar a sack for the coal although it had only paid its own natives fifty cents. Mr. Brower told me when he sent the natives he would let the mission have the coal for two dollars a sack plus a small commission but probably your Board will have to pay this extra price.

I quote to you the letter I received from Mr. Shields, the superintendend of schools of the Bureau of Education for this part of Alaska:

> "My dear Doctor Spence:
>
> I feel mighty sorry and worried that we cannot make Barrow this year, especially when I know that you folks need your supplies. I have 30 tons of outside coal on board which was to have been landed at Barrow and divided between the school and mission after Brower had received two tons in exchange for the coal given St. Lawrence Island by the Herman. But now this coal will do you little good. Your supplies are all here, (Wainwright) those sent last year and left at Teller, and those that came this year. The Teller Co. will collect the freight and lighterage through the Mission Board so you need not worry about that at all. All you need worry about is to get your supplies and coal up from Wainwright. I would suggest that you take the matter up with Brower and get him to send a lot of boats down and haul up your coal and supplies. I enclose

a letter from Mr. Lopp which shows that he had authority to buy coal up to 40 tons and draw on the mission for it. If he had bought this coal at Nome it would have cost $32. per ton, so the mission cannot kick if they get a good stiff bill. Don't worry about that at all. Get your coal no matter what it costs."

The following is a copy of the letter of Mr. Lopp referred to above:

"Supt. Walter C. Shields,
Nome, Alaska.

"Dear Dr. Shields:

Since writing you, I received a letter from the Presbyterian Board of Missions authorizing me to purchase for Doctor Spence 40 tons of coal, leaving it to our judgment as to how much shall be purchased at Nome or Teller, and how much at Wainwright. If we can limit the "outside" coal to five tons and encourage Spence to use Wainwright coal for the balance, it will I believe be the means of developing a local market for the natives. I think Mr. Forrest desires the native store company to handle the output of the mine. If you have not already written me by the return of the Victoria, please wire or write me your judgment on this matter. Of course I am taking it for granted that Captain Uberroth will help Barrow out this year, carrying all the coal needed."

You can see from the above there is a cooperative native store at Wainwright in which Mr. Lopp is interested. Mr.Brower has a store there in competition. It is a great misfortune to the Board and this mission that Capt. Backland no longer comes to Barrow. It increases the cost of coal and supplies enormously to this point.

Have said much in this letter about Mr. Brower. He is not a Christian nor do I think he is in sympathy with missions at heart, but he is a man of good judgment in business matters and so far has been very friendly to us. We have tried to command his respect and havebeen glad to have the opportunity to be of service to him. We ordered what supplies we needed through him this year and you will receive from him an order for $382.95 for said supplies, which considering war prices we do not think exorbitant. We did this last fall as we could see no other way to be sure of obtaining the goods. He has treated us so fairly this time I think we shall order what we need for next year from him this fall.

Will answer your letters more in detail on the first winter mail if we have no other opportunity before.

Cordially,

(Signed) F. H. Spence.

COPY.

Barrow, Alaska, August 21, 1918.
Rec'd Oct. 9/18

Mr. Varian Banks, Asst. Treasurer,
New York, N.Y.,
156 Fifth Ave.

My dear Mr. Banks:-

Your letters of Feb. 15th and 26th and July 12th came this morning as follows. The "Bear" reached Wainwright and came as far as Point Franklin, less than fifty miles from Barrow and turned back on account of ice conditions and left the hardware, paints and other supplies you ordered at Wainwright, I learn from a letter from Mr. Walter Shields the Superintendent of the Bureau of Education for this part of Alaska. He writes me the "Bear" had on board thirty tons of coal from the outside to be divided between the government school and the Mission, but it was not unloaded. He says there is an order for forty tons of coal from Wainwright and advises me to try and get Mr. Brower here to send whale boats for it. That raises the great question that is all the time before us here, how to do that?

Wainwright is about one hundred miles from here with a bad coast line and changeable winds that are apt to be too strong or not blow at all or blow four ways in a day. Mr. Brower, who has been here over thirty years has tried it and prefers to order his coal every year from San Francisco. When Mr. Brower found this year we were all out of coal and were planning to go out if none came, he said to me, "I have about twelve tons of coal I can let you have, and if the "Bear" comes I will try to get her to let you have ten tons and I will send as many whale boats as I can get to Wainwright, and have them bring all the coal they can carry for you; and accordingly last Friday he sent eight whale boats and they returned last night bringing about ten tons of coal and the mail. Since coming here Mr. Brower has had much sickness in his family. The first year his wife was taken with Brights disease and I worked over her all one night to save her from convulsions and death. He feels her life was saved. This year he had ptomain poisoning and he feels I saved his life. He said to me, "Doctor, if it is only a case of coal that causes you to go out I will burn drift wood myself rather than have you go. If you will stay, we will see you are kept warm." It is because of this he made this effort. This time the winds were favorable both ways; whether that can be repeated again or not is a question.

You need not worry however but in some way we will be taken care of, but get this clear in your mind that to get coal from Wainwright to Barrow is an unsolved problem and one not to be depended on unless some ship from Nome or outside can be hired to bring it. The oil Captain Backland wrote you about was sold when he wrote to the Herman and half of it was taken off the beach then and the rest this month. The Herman is a whaler and is always the first boat here. Two smaller boats have come this year and it is possible when they return we may be able to get them to go to Wainwright before going out and bring up the supplies. The Polar Bear is here now and will carry out this mail. We asked her to go and get the things at Wainwright but she has not fuel enough, having gasoline engines. I presume the others will be in the same fix, but the effort will be made. If this fails doubtless we will do what we can to bring it up by whale boats.

I want to express to you our thanks for the efforts you have made to supply our needs and hope in some way this fuel shortage here every year may be over come. As the mail closes soon I will not try at this time to answer your letters but will write again later. Cordially, (Signed) F. H. Spence.

COPY.

The Largest
Eskimo Church
In the World

The Farthest North of any
Church in North America -
Presbyterian.

Barrow, Alaska, July 1, 1918.
Rec'd Oct. 9/18

Mr. Varian Banks, Assistant Treasurer,
New York, N.Y.
156 Fifth Ave.

My dear Mr. Banks:-

In my last annual letter you will find these words: "I forgot to say what I think was mentioned in my previous letter, - Mrs. Spence had charge of the work while I was in Wainwright". That looked innocent enough to me when it was written, but this is what it brought me. "I think you might with safety and propriety have enlarged on the splendid part Mrs. Spence played during your absence. You know praise does not spoil but it helps people. Mrs. B. and I are just as proud of her achievements as we are of yours. And so would Mr. Olin be if you would let him know. Two lines are hardly enough." That from one of our best friends. I wrote him we would endeavor to make good in this letter.

Mrs. Spence is Superintendent of our Sunday School with an enrollment of about three hundred. Every Saturday night she conducts the Teachers' Training Class, where they go over carefully the lesson for the next day. Every Wednesday afternoon she has charge of the Junior and Intermediate Christian Endeavor. This year she will have charge of the Christmas exercises.

On Sundays she prepares a dinner for the interpreter and driver who take me to the Point and for from half a dozen to a dozen others after we are gone. One Sunday it will be some of the old ladies, another some of the children or some of the Sunday school teachers. During the year she prepares countless meals for the sick or those in need. She makes it a part of her work to know who is sick and what they need. She watches over the spiritual condition of those especially who show a tendency to stray from the straight and narrow way. A large part of her time and strength is given to writing letters about the work and its needs and answering letters of those interested. This is only a suggestion of the thousand and one things that come up in the every day life of a place as isolated as this. In addition to the above, when we were at Wainwright Mrs. Spence conducted the church services and looked after the sick. I trust my friend will accept the above as a partial peace offering for my sins of omission.

Your letter of December 3d reached us by special mail on May 16th, the only letter we received, and was brought from Kotzebue by the Rev. Wm. A. Thomas of the Episcopal Mission at Point Hope. But for his kindness we would not have received it until the boats come in August. It was the first word received from the Board since the boats were here last August. It cheered us to know our work so far meets with your approval, but we were disappointed no word was sent in regard to the coal, as owing to the uncertainties in connection with the War, we know not whether you will be able to send us coal. That means we shall have

to be ready when the boats come, to leave on two hours' notice if the coal is not on the way. With Rev. Thomas came the Government teachers from Wainwright, Mr. and Mrs. Forrest and little Robert, whose ushering into this world I spoke of in my former letter. They were here from Thursday until Monday and it was one continual round of visiting. It means so much to see some new people in this far away place.

You asked in your letter for an article to be published, on some phase of the work up here and requested it should reach you not later than the first of August. I know you will be disappointed but it was not possible to comply with your request. If it had been possible for me to write a letter and send it by Rev. Thomas, it would have gone overland and not reached you for five months after it was written and therefore you would not receive it until October, and this one going by boat will reach you as soon or sooner than that. Our mail service is not one of our chief attractions up here and calls on us for the constant exercise of patience. During the year so far we have held service at the Point nearly every Sunday and havebeen able to look after the sick to that extent. We have tried lately to establish a midweek trip also, but as yet with very indifferent success. It should be an accomplished fact but the way does not seem clear as yet. They need to be looked after twice a week spiritually and physically.

At our Easter service this year we baptized nineteen infants and five people joined the church here and four at the Point. Our collection is something about $50.00 and one fox skin. We hope to add a little more to it yet. I will enclose a medical report which will inform you of that phase of the work.

We come now to the most important part of this letter. You have sent Mrs. Spence and myself up here to care for these people at a considerable expense each year and yet we are in the position of a carpenter you would hire to build your house and take from him all his tools. Practically almost the only disease we have to contend with is tuberculosis. There is only one way to overcome it successfully and that is to separate the sick from the well and give them plenty of fresh air and good food and rest if needed. To do that we need some kind of a hospital. The one thing needed to combat the "great white plague" is wanting. In my medical report for this year you will see that at least one person in every six here has the disease in some form and I am satisfied there are many latent cases not yet discovered. We have suffered a great misfortune this year. Alice, the leader of this people, died from this disease. She was a great blessing while she lived. Her people had confidence in her and trusted her as no other. From a human standpoint the loss seems irreparable. Mrs. Spence and myself depended on her in so many ways. If the money you have spent in this work had never accomplsihed anything else but to bring to the "Light" this one glorious life it was money well spent. But think of the sacrifice of life upon life for want of the means of staying the scourge!!

I am sending you by this mail a copy of the Ritual and Hymnal we are using here. The last eight songs are new ones that havebeen learned since we came. We try to have at least two or three translated and learned each year. I think it wouldbe helpful if you could print and bind enough of these for our church.

I have omitted an experience while Alice was sick that I wish to bring

to your attention. Some little time before she passed away it become evident to Alice and to her hsuband Roy that unless some power greater than human power were found her days on earth were nearly over. They had two little boys, one about four and the other about two years of age who needed a mother's care. One day Roy came to me with his Bible and asked me to explain these words. "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up." Just what would you have said to that young man in his sorrow and what would have been your thoughts as the Lord's representative on earth to a primitive people.

Soon after our return from our work in Unalaska a number of years ago Mrs. Spence spoke one Sunday before a congregation in Southern California in regard to the answers to prayer we had received in our work. When she was through speaking the minister said, "We have been hearing reports from God's laboratory as to how he does his work." But so often the agents are faulty and do not live up to the high privileges and opportunities that are theirs. The Power is there all the time but the connection is broken.

As soon as the thermometer went up to zero we let the office fire go out and lived in the kitchen and cared for the sick here as the coal was too far gone for two fires. We know the burdens of the Board are many and heavy, and we do not wish to add to them, but I think if you knew the effect it had on your missionaries up here and how much it crippled their efforts to have the uncertainties of the coal supply ever before them because of ice conditions from year to year to say nothing of war conditions, some way would be found to secure an abundant supply of coal. There ought never to be less than two years' supply on hand, as a minimum. We have hesitated a long time to speak thus plainly but we felt it was due to the Board as well as to ourselves and the work here.

In your last letter I find these words, "You may rest assured should any reason arise by which the Board should feel it desirable to discontinue the Barrow mission etc." That brings to me mind some things that have come under our observation since we came here. Bishop Rowe and Rev. Hoare of Point Hope, both of the Episcopal Church, came up on the "Bear" with us. Rev. Hoare had visited this place the previous year. During this winter Archdeacon Stuck of the Episcopal Church visited us and more than once said he wished he had this mission. He showed much interest in the work and its needs. I am very sure there is no thought of introducing an Episcopal mission here unless you abandon this work and I hope the day is far distant when you will find that necessary.

Referring to the copy of the Ritual and Hymnal sent you, I wish to ask your indulgence for the many errors that you will find both in spelling and punctuation.

You will notice at the head of this letter the words, "The Largest Eskimo Church in the world. The farthest north of any church in North America, Presbyterian. And with it a picture of the church and people. I would be glad if you could print a letter-head something like that. I enclose a better picture than the one you find there. Perhaps it would be better to place the words above and below instead of at the sides. Would be willing to pay the expense for five hundred.

In the inventory we found here when we came is this item, "Launch cost $400.00 - value nil." Before we came Mr. Richardson had tried to make use of it as a sail boat but did not succeed. His advice to me before he went away was to make kindling wood of it. I found if I was to use it, it required at least six or eight men to get in and out of the water and that made it practically useless for me. As near as I can learn it has been here about eighteen years. During that time it was in an ice crush once and some of the knees were broken. Mr. Richardson found it buried in the sand. Last year one of the natives wanted to buy it and I asked the trader, Mr. Hansen, to put a price on it. He valued it at $25.00 and it was sold for that. It was my intention to put the money into paint for the church. Only part of that has been paid but the native is a responsible one. This month we have painted the church inside and out one coat, Mrs. Spence and myself furnishing what extra money was needed. This is our freewill offering to the work here. We found that both towers leaked because there was only one thickness from the belfry to the outside doors, so we shingled both of them, which improved their appearance. The church now looks very well though it still needs more paint as it only has one coat behind and on the old entry and the seats in the gallery and the floors have none. The rooms in the mission have not been painted in three years and are grimy from soft coal and the outside has had no paint for years. We bought all the paint they would let us have here and so can do no more now unless you send us paint.

This is the 18th of July and we see water for the first time, though ice is still along the shore.

Cordially,

(Signed) F. H. Spence.

Barrow

COPY.

Barrow, Alaska, October 23, 1918.
Rec'd April 3, 1919.

Mr. Varian Banks, Asst. Treasurer,
New York, N.Y.
156 Fifth Avenue.

My dear Mr. Banks:-

One week from next Friday the first winter mail leaves Barrow. We are frozen in for another year, indeed we were frozen in most of the summer, three ships watching their chance to get in and they with two others going out under difficulties.

The "Bear" as you know did not get here, something that has happened only a few times before. One of the ships here was the "Belvedere". The day after it cameit had to hide around the Point because of a hard wind blowing in the ice. It proved to be a blessing in disguise to us, as the Captain was hunting walrus and after a hard wind they cannot be found for several days. Because of that the Captain finally consented to go to Wainwright and bring up not to exceed one hundred tons of freight for which he was to receive $3,000.00, regardless of whether it was much or little. He came near having his ship wrecked while he was doing it, but all our supplies were brought and 900 sacks of coal, which was all they had at Wainwright at the time. Of this we received 384 sacks, which at the time we supposed would complete the 40 tons we were to have. As it turned out, seven boats of the eight Mr. Brower sent to Wainwright brought 238 sacks instead of 250 and the boat that did not reach here with the others, having 25 sacksmore, lost all of its coal because it was not taken away from the shore far enough and a big storm took it all out to sea. Of the eight men who owned the boats this one had two planks torn out of bis boat and had no use of it all summer; it is still where it was wrecked, and he of course lost his pay for his coal as he did not deliver it. Two other of the men were seriously sick as a result of the trip with pneumonia. There was not a time before nor has there been since when whaleboats could have made the trip to Wainwright and back again with a load of coal. So if it had not been for the hard storm that gave the Captain a day or two when he could not catch walrus we would not have had our supplies nor our coal.

I wish I could drop the coal question here but there is more to be told if you are to understand the situation. Wainwright coal is not outside coal, as we found out at once. The first morning we were two hours getting a fire started. Then we bought blubber and used kindling and coal oil. Even then we could not get the stove hot enough to get breakfast and I bought a coal oil cooking stove. A short time ago I got hold of one sack of good coal and used a half a hod each morning to get the fire started. That gave me an idea, and I asked Mr. Brower if he would let me have 25 sacks of outside coal for breakfast coal and he finally let us have it.

It also takes much more of Wainwright coal than of outside coal. Already we are using as much as we would use in the middle of winter. Mr. Brower told me the other day he wrote to Mr. Shields he would not take Wainwright coal if we would give him three tons for one of outside coal, that he could not sell him Wainwright coal at any price. You will perhaps remember in a

copy of Mr. Shields' letter in my last, he said he had 30 tons of outside coal on the "Bear" for the school and mission. When I inquired what became of that coal, for it did not come to Barrow, I was told it was taken back and given to the teachers at Kivalina and another place I do not remember. I speak of this because I have known ever since coming here that the govenment teachers insist on having outside coal to cook. The school here has on hand enough coal to last them two years for cooking. I am sorry to have to write this, but I wanted you to see we were not the only one that have trouble with Wainwright coal.

There are three ships beside the "Bear" that are coming to Barrow from the outside each year. The "Herman" belonging to H. Liebes of San Francisco, the "Belvedere" and "Bemder Brothers" both of Seattle, Wash. You could learn the firms that own them by writing to Dr. W. A. Major. Sending freight to be transferred at Nome or Teller increases the cost very materially as well as the uncertainty of the freight coming through the same year it is sent. Correspondence with all of these three might open a way to send coal and freight to this place without transfer or if transferred, so it will make connections. I understand the proper way is for your Board and the Board of Education to work together and I am not suggesting anything to interfere with that. What I have said is not offered as advice. My only object is to assist you in a difficult situation by keeping you informed of what I learn from being on the ground.

When we came up here in 1915 Captain Backland brought 30,000 shingles as he said the house leaked badly. What we reached here we found Mr. Richardson had just covered the roof with asbestos roofing paper, so the shingles were not used. The first year there was no place to store them but the next spring I built a leanto to the storehouse that I am suing for a coal house, out of refuse lumber good only for kindling and covered it with some of the canvass taken off of the church when we rebuilt. This year when I found the churchtowers were leaking I used some of these shingles and found they were deteriorating from moisture. From our experience last winter with the cold and because of the condition of the shingles I took the liberty to use enough of them to cover the lower story of the mission with the hope it would make it less difficult to heat. There are still about 15,000 shingles left. At the same time I put in two large windows upstairs, for which I paid myself. There are no bills for the Board to pay except that I used the shingles. If I succeed in obtaining it I will send you in this a picture of the mission as it is now. I should have said the roof is still in good condition, as so far as I can see the asbestos roofing is giving good service. When I came here there was no place to store coal, so I moved the little storehouse near the house, built a coal house on to the church building, and this year I made another addition to the store ouse so that now we have all our coal under shelter.

It occurs to me that having referred you to H. Liebes and Co. of San Francisco possibly I had better say something in regard to one of our minor disagreeable experiences of the past year. The captain of the "Herman" is C. T. Pedersen. He is an irreligious man and has no use for missionaries. He apparently makes it a point to reach Barrow on Sunday. While Mr. Richardson was here no attempt was made to unload on Sunday but this year every effort was made to get the natives to work on that day and before night a few went to work. Because of this he wrote me a scurrilous letter abusing all missionaries and telling what he could do to them if he had his way and what he would do to this mis-

sionary if he ever had a chance. Have paid no attention to it and do not expect to. In discussing my own requisition with Mr. Brower I spoke of the letter, as it is known by every one here and said I would stand for no foolishness. Mr. Brower assured me there would be no trouble as Liebes and Co. would not put up with anything that interfered with their business. It is not worth mentioning except I thought possible you might better know it if you took up the matter of freight with them. I might say I had said nothing to the natives about unloading the "Herman" but I have preached constantly the keeping of the Sabbath holy.

I enclose a copy of the inventory as per your request. There is no property of any kind at the Point. The valuations are not accurate. It is possible in my late report I put the church building at $6,000.00. I do not remember Dr. Marsh placed the house at $3,240.00, the organ at $85.00 and the sewing-machine at $50,00. I presume that is what they cost, but they would not be worth that now.

I am sending my order for magazines for 1919 to the J.M.Hanson-Bennett Agency with a request they forward the bill to you. Please pay the Herald and Presbyter and the Assembly Herald and the Geographic for 1919 and charge to my account with the others.

You say Mr. N. B. Harrison of Seattle ordered the stoves and the lamps for the church. Three lamps came but they are not hanging lamps but table lamps. It is true there is a ring by which you can hang them up, but they will cast a large shadow if hung up. That however is not the real difficulty. The lamp is called the Kerolite and has an extra tip with each lamp, but they only burn coal oil. They have a notice if you want to burn gasolene you must send for the tips marked "G". We tried one of the lamps with coal oil but could not use it because it smelled so bad and caused our eyes and throat to smart so. Will you please ask to have six tips marked "G" for gasolene sent to us.

I am expecting also to order new tips and generators for the church lanterns from E.W.Murray Lighting Co., 307 Riverside Ave. Spokane,Wash. amd will ask them to send the bill to you. You may charge this to my account. There are no money orders at Barrow so I am not sending the collection for last East but will keep it for my own use and you can charge it to my account. I think it was $50.80. If this is not as reported charge the larger of the two.

I would be glad if you would send us a barrel of shingle stain, some light color. The church roof needs that or paint.

We ought to have some fire putty and some fire clay, and some varnish for table tops that won't spot from heat and some stove blacking that can be put on when the stove is cold. I want it for the new stoves to keep them from rusting. Please send me about six different Christmas Cantatas and a Thanksgiving "Our Country's Defenders", a copy of your book of war songs and also a book with the new war songs, if there is one published. Possibly "Just Before Christmas I'm as good as I can be" is Eugene Field. If so send the book it is in. If you have any lanter slides we can have I wish you would send them. I should be glad to have more slides on tuberculosis also.

I think I mentioned in a previous letter of ordering a Trial Case through Mr. Shields at Nome and that the bill was to be sent to you and charged to my account, also a bill for drugs ordered from Nome. I enclose Mr. Brower's

bill for the part of the 40 tons he supplied. I am giving him also a receipt as having received it.

The vapor nut "A" sent for the Alco-Radiant lamp does not fit this lamp. I am returning it to you and one of the old ones. There should be several sent as they need changing every year. Also several Burner Tips "C", several asbestos cartridges M and two dozen B.M.mantles. Have just overhauled the lamp and used it twice with fine pictures but the hole in nut "A" is pretty large and may give out any time. It is the only one we have now. I enclose the Alco-Radiant circular. They seem to have made some changes in the construction of the lamp.

The paint and oil and lead are all here. Lining for Economy stove No. 1400 did not come, but a fire pot for that stove did come. The lining in the old stove is on its fourth year, somewhat the worse for use. The extra centers for the top of range, Aerflame No.6826 did not come. Neither did the shaker. I believe that is all that failed to come. The crude fuel oil you spoke of was sold not long after it was landed on the beach and was gone long ago. This has been a very busy summer with painting and repairing and keeping up the work. We are going to the Point regularly again now every Sunday and trying to start a midweek trip also. They days are growing very short and soon the sun will be gone for two months. We have begun to practice for Christmas and as soon as the mail is gone will be preparing for Thanksgiving.

With many thanks for all your kindnesses.

Cordially,

(Signed) F. H. Spence.

P.S.-I find some matters have been omitted that should appear in this letter. Of the twelve tile sent for the chimneys six of them were broken, some so much we could not use them. The three elbows and bottom plates came in good condition. Out of what were good and some of the best of the old ones we rebuilt the chimneys in good shape. This time we lined all the woodwork with two thicknesses of asbestos paper so I think we are safe now at least for a while. When we came to take down the old chimneys we found a crack in the underside of one elbow almost large enough to put your finger in, and when we took it out it fell into many pieces. Am so thankful the new tile came, for we surely would have had a fire this year if it had not come. The stoves came but were badly rusted and the frame around the reservoir of the range was broken.

We had to take the range all part to get it in the house, but all the stoves are cleaned and stored upstairs that are not in use. I am sending to Lowman and Hanford, Seattle, for cobweb carbon paper and may ask them to send the bill to you. If so, charge to my account. We are sending a bill for clothing and drygoods to Montgomery Ward & Co. Chicago, Ill. It will be $150. at least. Am asking them to divide it up and send by parcel post; should they object to sending such a large order by parcel post, will you help them to make the best

arrangement possible, as the goods are all needed the coming year. We were sorry to hear of Mr. Olin's death but we shall always remember with gratitude the few helpful letters we received from him. He always caused us to feel there was a sympathetic touch and an efficient one behind us. Our loss,however, is his gain, though we can understand it is a great loss to his family and immediate friends.

Two years ago the Government furnished us food for the sick, but it is all gone now. There should be hard bread, flour, rice, mile here all the time for that purpose. We are constantly using our own supplies for this purpose, but they are taxed beyond what we can supply. It is not much use to give people medicine when they are sigk, if they do not have proper nourishment. I wrote across the top of one of the pages of this letter we would like some varnish. After looking through many magazines we have found what we want, and it is to be had in New York City, 458 Fourth Ave., Valentine & Co. and is called Valentine's Valspar. We need it for our dining-room table. I would be glad if we could have enough to use on the doors and the natural wood over to the church.

Return to Stock
Room 722

Copied April 1920 &c

GOSPEL EXTENSION DEPARTMENT
FEB-2 1920
RECEIVED

Barrow, Alaska.

October
[illegible]-nine
1919.

Elizabeth E. Lloyd,

New York, N.Y.

156 Fifth Ave.

We are having experiences this year that correspond with our location on the earth's surface. To begin with our mails were held up in quarantine owing to the epidemic of Spanish Influenza scuth of us that carried off whole villages of Eskimos. A year ago this summer the U.S.C.G.S.Bear did not reach Barrow but left our mail and supplies a hundred miles down the coast, the mail to come in whale boats and the supplies to come in a ship that fortunately called in here. This year the "Bear" came to within a hundred and fifty miles of this place with Dr. Marquis and his daughter and Dr. Condit on board and turned back and left our mail and supplies four hundred miles down the coast, which means we will not receive the supplies until next year, though at least a part of the mail will reach us by Christmas, the last mail received being last April. Supplies means coal, groceries, clothing, dry goods Christmas boxes, repairs for stoves and lights, etc, etc.
Fortunately we ordered our groceries through the store here and they came on the Herman but the government teacher was not so fortunate. We have too a small boat and Evinrude, that we have asked for these four years, down at Point Hope, as we learn by a letter we received through the Captain of the Bender Brothers from Dr. Marquis when he had returned to Nome. When I was young I used to think of this country as a land of icebergs and polar bears.
We do have polar bears, many being killed every year but an iceberg we have never seen since coming here. There is however plenty of ice and this year because the right winds did not blow the ice remained with us most of the summer closing the sea to all but experienced navigators. Three ships came in, and went east of us, and returned outside. Our greatest misfortune is the lack of fuel. We are living by one fire with no coal for the church services. The coal we have is coal from the surface dug by the natives about sixty miles from here. Of this we only have enough to keep one fire and it is so poor in heating qualities we have to use kindlings and blubber to keep it going. Because of a cold church with no fire Mrs. Spence took cold and had an ulcerated tooth and swollen face. The wife of the government teacher at Wainwright, one hundred miles down the coast came here on the Herman to be confined. As we were short of coal we could only have one fire, and so had to give her a bed in the kitchen. I had to be in the cold much because of this arrangement and took cold in my ears and for a long time almost lost my hearing.

When the baby came Mrs. Spence did not have her clothes off for eight nights and just as the mother and child returned home on the Herman our sympathy and help was needed for Mr. and Mrs. Van Valin who were trying to find a way to go out. The anxiety up here under such uncertain circumstances is very trying as we never know whether the boats that have gone east will be able to get out of the ice. Fortunately after a few days the Bender Brothers came from the east and they were able to go as they wished. The strain had been too long however for Mrs. Spence and she collapsed as soon as they were gone and was quite ill for a while. At this writing we are in our usual health. The weather has been unusually mild this month making traveling by dog team almost impossible to the south of us, delaying the sending of the mail and drugs at Point Hope. We are hoping however to receive some of it the latter part of next month. We are out of many drugs that are much needed.
I fear the natives will be very much disappointed this year as no Christmas supplies have come. We have told them to plan to make each other presents of such things as they can make themselves. We will do the best we can to have a good program but here too we will not be able to do as well as usual because many of the children are going away with their parents as there is no school. We were so disappointed that Dr. Marquis and Dr. Conait came so far and then did not reach us. It would have been such a help to this work to have had them with us even for a short time. We have always wanted to come in personal touch with some members of the Board of Home Missions. We can appreciate they too were sorry to come so far and not see us and see for themselves the needs of this work.
You know doubtless their object was to investigate the needs of a hospital at this place. I want to quote from a letter written by Archdeacon Stuck after visiting this place and published in the Assembly Herald. "Dr. Spence is greatly handicapped by the lack of facilities for the treatment of the sick. There is no place in that large village where the sick may be cared for in separation from the well, and Dr. Spence lamented again and again that in the treatment of tuberculosis (which is terribly rife) he was virtually helpless because of this lack.-- We consider here on the Yukon that a physician, two nurses (for one invariably breaks down in a single case of serious and protracted sickness, and however competent and however devoted a woman may be she must sleep) a matron and a male orderly (native) constitute the minimum working staff of a real hospital. With such an establishment Dr. Spence could attack the condition with regard to tuberculosis with some prospect of success ---I think there are no native people anywhere on the earth so richly entitled to the indulgent consideration of civilized mankind as the Eskimos, for there cannot be anywhere else such brave and resolute and light hearted folk in such an utterly barren and naked land, pitting themselves against ferocity of wind and cold. I am glad to have seen them; glad to know them; glad to have passed around that dreary, savage coast."

Cordially,

F. H. Spence

1 9 1 9 .

CHRISTMAS EXERCISES

Song	The Wonderful Christmas Story		In Eskimo
Prayer			Dr.Spence
Song	Do You Know the Song?		In Eskimo
Scripture	Mathew 2. 1-12 by Percy		In English
"	" " Roy		In Eskimo
Song	It Came Upon the Midnight Clear		" "
Scripture	Luke 2. 8-16 Roscoe		In English
"	" " John		In Eskimo
Song	Opening Chorus	C. E.	Intermediates
"	I Love Him	C. E.	Juniors
Recitation		Walton	
"		Rex	
"		Ruth	
Song		Roscoe,Percy,Thea,	
Recitation	Greeting	Ellen	
"	Christmas Song	Jennie	
"	The Babe of Bethlehem	Ray	
Drill	Doll Drill by 14 girls and two boys.		
Song	The Man of Galilee	John	
Recitation	Baby's Christmas Stocking	Kate	
"	Santa Claus	Steve	
"	The Midnight Masse	Fred	
"	The Spirit of Christmas	Percy	
Exercise	Santa's List	Roscoe in costume	
Solo	The Holy City	Lizzie	
Drill	Ring Drill	Six boys and girls	
Selection	Who Is It?	David	
Recitation	Our Savior	Thea	
"	Sing,Christmas Bells!	Emma	
"	Christmas Gifts	Bud	
Song	When We All Get to Heaven	Roscoe,Homer,Guy,Sam	
Recitation	'Twas the Night Before Christmas,	Homer	
Drill	Flag Drill	Six boys,five girls	
Song	Good Night and Good Will	Young People	
	Santa Claus and Gifts.		

P. S. It might seem to some if we have coal within sixty miles of us there is no need of being without coal. First the coal is of a very poor quality, second there is no road and there are many rivers and lakes to cross and deep ravines and the coast is very dangerous with changing winds and hard. Theoretically it seems possible, but practically it is not. It took three boats and nine men three weeks to go and dig and bring 103 sacks of coal, and when we have it we have to buy blubber and kindling to make it burn and the coal cost us alone over three dollars a sack.

The man who has been here the longest, over thirty five years, will not use the local coal, but sends outside for his coal every year.

LITERATURE OFFICE

THE LARGEST
ESKIMOS CHURCH
IN THE WORLD

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BARROW, ALASKA

THE FARTHEST NORTH
OF ANY CHURCH IN
NORTH AMERICA

REV. F. H. SPENCE, M.D.
IN CHARGE

BARROW, ALASKA

Top of Letter Leads

Sent 5/22/19 M C

MAY 22 1919

1919

COPY.

Barrow, Alaska, December 7,1918.
(Rec'd April 11, 1919)

Mr. Varian Banks, Treasurer,
New York, N.Y.
156 Fifth Avenue,

My dear Mr. Banks:-

Heretofore we have written only of the encouraging and interesting things in our work. We had our difficulties and our troubles but we felt it to be our duty to solve them ourselves. We realized your Board had troubles enough of your own and we did not wish to burden you with ours.

We have put off writing this letter for a long time, it was such an unpleasant job. We feel now in justice to your Board and to the work here and to ourselves we should submit conditions here to your consideration. When we came here in 1915, there went out from Wainwright Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Van Valin, who had been covernment teachers at that place. When they reached Seattle they had some difficulty with Captain Backland and the Bureau of Education which was taken into court and settled according to law.

in 1917 these people came to Barrow about the same time as Mr. and Mrs. Cram. Mr. Van Valin was sent out by the University of Pennsylvania in research work and has been collecting curios and taking moving pictures etc. He brought with him his wife and little girl. We knew when they came the government teachers had been instructed not to show them any courtesies. There are but two places here suitable for a white woman to stop, the government school and the mission. It was a difficul' situation but we felt the mission should be open to those in need or in trouble. They were entire strangers to us and we wished to be neutral and friendly to all white people living here and not to be drawn into any controversies. We invited them to the mission until they could find a house.

They tried at once to procure a place to live, but each time Mr. Cram interfered and they had to buy lumber and build before they could get a place to live. They remained with us about ten days. Mr. Van Valin has been a singing evangelist and they are both members of the Free M.E.Church, her father being one of their presiding elders.

About the time they came a young native by the name of Paul returned from the outside to care for his father and mother who live here and are old. He also was not liked by the Bureau of Education, and we feared from the things said about his spiritual professions he might cause trouble in the church. We had a talk with him soon after he came and found he had a clear conversion and spiritual experience. We have no finer young man here, so far as we can just. He caught more foxes here last year than any one here and is providing an abundant support to his parents.

Ever since coming here there has been one evil that has caused us much anxiety, adultery. These are a primitive people living in an adverse climate. In order to live at all they are housed in small, one roomed igloos with two, three or more families in most igloos. Here young and old live together in conditions

impossible to morality. At the time Mr. and Mrs. Cram came we were having some aggravated cases of this kind. Not long after we went to the schoolhouse to talk the matter over with Mr. Cram. In the midst of our talk he surprised me by jumping up and shaking his fist in my face and saying I should prove that in court and bring my witnesses. When I had recovered from my surprise I said to him, if that was his position it would be the last time I should bring any information to him. Notwithstanding this our relations continued friendly.

The first year they were here a petition was started among the natives for their removal. We found it out before it had gone far and stopped it. Some little time ago one of the natives sold some meat to Mr. Van Valin. They have to report all the sales of reindeer meat to Mr. Cram. When the native reported to Mr. Cram, Paul was acting as interpreter. Mr. Cram made some remark about the bill not being properly made out when Paul said perhaps he did not understand Mr. Van Valin's writing. At that Mr. Cram struck Paul with his first under the jaw. Paul did not strike back. But we did something we regret. He wrote out a petition asking for their removal because of Mr. Cram's striking him and because Mrs. Cram whipped the children in school etc. This time it was kept from us until it was accomplished and Paul took it himself to Wainwright to mail. When Mr. and Mrs. Cram learned of this, there was a great commotion. In the services held at the church next after, they went to the people whose names they had learned were on the petition and directed them to come to the schoolhouse, or showed them Matthew 18:15. For at least two weeks after there was a commotion at the close of every church service.

Soon after this matter came out Mrs. Cram sent all the boys home and questioned every girl in school as to her sexual life and there are many only six years of age. The next day she sent all the girls home and questioned the boys. She claims the children are rotten and it has come since they were here before.

An Eskimo is not a white man. In intellect he is a child and never grows up. He can be frightened and intimidated by a white man, but you can do him no good that way. When a white man is talking to him he tries to know what the white man wants him to say and says it regardless of the truth. He does not mean to lie, he is simply trying to escape trouble, being frightened. Some of the people who signed the petition signed letters at Mr. and Mrs. Cram's dictation saying they did not know what the first petition was about and were sorry. In two cases we know they did not tell the truth the second time. We know there is adultery here, but we do not think things are as bad as represented. We have preached on the subject in the church until we are almost ashamed. We have called a meeting of the session more than once and taken up the matter and set them to work. We believe the majority of our people are trying to live up to the light they have. When Mrs. Crame becomes angry she shows it, going out of the house slamming the doors. At the schoolhouse when she is that way the children run crying the words that mean, I am frightened.

Last spring we began to talk to some of the natives about getting our coal. As soon as Mr. Cram heard of it he told us the natives had to work for the Government. We at once gave it up. When it came near time for the boats we took up the coal question with Mr. Brower as we have written you. He hired natives to go to Wainwright to get coal and Mr. Cram told them they could not go. But Mr.

Brower raised the price so high the natives could not afford to lose it, so one of them went to Mr. Cram and told him he was going anyhow. At that they all decided to go. The agreement was they were to receive so much a boat load for taking things down to Mr. Brower's store at Wainwright, they wer to go to the mine and mine the coal and get two dollars a sack for every sack they brought. When they reached Wainwright, the Government teacher persuaded them to take the coal he had on hand, and it was fortunate he did so, for it was only so they were able to return before it would have been impossible to return with coal at all. Mr. Brower told me the other day that when they returned he told them he had to pay a dollar a sack to the store at Wainwright for the coal, and therefore he could only pay them a dollar a sack for bringing it. They replied that was all right, they got the coal to keep the doctor here. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Thanksgiving week we sent out invitations to all the white people to take dinner at our place on Thanksgiving and it was accepted by all but Mr. and Mrs. Cram, from whom we received the following:

"My dear Mrs. Spence:-
Mr. Crame and I regret that we feel forced to decline your invitation to dinner Thanksgiving.

Mrs. Cram."

Mrs. Spence and myself went over the same day and said we had received their note and judged they felt unkindly towards us. We had come to learn the cause and to establish friendly relations. As long as we were there they talked against the Van Valins, Paul and Mr. Brower, wanting us to denounce Paul publicly. We asked them what they had against us personally and thry brought up a small matter in regard to the bill of drugs. We at once said, that though it would inconvenience us much, in the interest of peace we would concede it, when they informed us they had written out "asking for a change and that they were working alone in the interest of the natives and could not work with us." We asked what else they had against us and they declined to answer. We stayed for some time talking over the problem of adultery in a friendly manner and left in a friendly spirit. They did not come to the dinner.

On Thanksgiving I spoke from the words, "And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth." My theme was the war, how we came in it, what we were fighting for and the suffering endured by those fighting for us. In closing I said, "Some of us think we have our troubles here, but they are as nothing when compared with the people at the front. Then I quoted the following, enlarging on them some. "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath; for it is written vengeance is mine! I will repay saith the Lord." "But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and persecute you." Then I asked them when they went home to read the thirteenth chapter of First Corinthians and for all of us to try to live in its spirit. My remarks were entirely impersonal and I tried to lift us all to a higher plane.

All of the above places us in a false light. It looks as though we were fighting Mr. and Mrs. Cram and taking sides with the white people, neither of which is true. We would prefer to live peaceably with the government people

even if we cannot see as they do not. We are fighting for the white people, they are ablt to take care of themselves. We do not see all things as they do and sometimes wish they could see out way, but because they do not we do not feel called upon to be at sword's points with them. There are only nine of us and we have to live here together by ourselves. We can see nothing to be gained by hammering them to make them think as we do. That would not be our way of gaining them. We can understand it is best for the Board of Home Missions and the Bureau of Education to work together and for their representatives to do so also. We are employed by your Board and if it is your judgment we ought to come out as will submit, but we say to you frankly we like this work when we can have peace and prefer to remain as long as we can be helpful to these people.

There is one other matter that has added much to our troubles, the spy system has been adopted here in managing affairs. Perhaps you will recall the first year we were here we sent a duplicate order for drugs to your Board as well as to the Board of Education, asking you to fill whatever they could not. They filled the bill as ordered and have done so until this year, when they cut in two a number of drugs we used the most of. Fortunately we received the bill before the boats went out and we sent an order to Nome for the things most needed and directed the bill to be sent to you and charged to our personal account. We did this as the drugs were needed and we had no authority to have it charged to your Board. Financially we are not able to do this, but to be here without tools, is to tie our hands. I presume war conditions had something to do with cutting the order, but I wish if we are to remain here you would have an understanding with the Bureau of Education to furnish you a list each year of those things they cannot send.

Mrs. Spence would like a number of "Catechism for Young Children," as we are all out of them. The Portland cement is about gone and more should be sent for repairing the chimneys. It would be well also to send more tile, for the frost injures some every year. New centers for the top of the range "Aerflame" 6826, and a new lining for the "Economy" heater #1400. This is merely a reminder of some things spoken of in my last. The coal question will be the same next summer as last, that is, we shall have to have coal if we remain.

December 27. Our Christmas exercises this year were about one hour and a half long and I think were the best we have had since coming here. Certainly they were received with enthusiasm. The flag drill was very popular. It was composed of ten boys and girls from ten to fourteen years of age. It is the custom here to have the Christmas exercises on the day before Christmas and on Christmas to have a feast for all the people in the church. Request was made to have the flag drill repeated at the feast and it was liked so well they encored it and it had to be repeated again. Our mail came in just two hours before the Christmas exefcises. After the program was finished and the presents were all distributed we made the announcement of the news just received that peace had been declared, and the allied armies were successful. Hardly were the words spoken by the interpreter until there was universal applause by about five hundred people assembled. It had not subsided before they arose to their feet and applauded again, then broke out into a Hallelujah Chrous they sing here followed by the Doxology. No more popular demonstration occurred anywhere in our country I am sure. This accounts in part for the enthusiasm with which the flag drill was received. We had the largest number of people here this year of any year since we came. The new church was taxed to its utmost to hold the crowd.

I am not anticipating your judgment as to whether we are to remain after this year, but should you decide not to make a change the following drugs should be sent, not in the order already sent out.

****

News came by the mail of an epidemic of Spanish influenza at Nome, in which all the adult Eskimos, about 175, had died, and all the children but seventeen, and 21 white people, one of them being Mr. Walter Shields, Superintendent of this district of the Bureau of Education. Because of this no mail was allowed to leave Nome and our drugs have not come but may come in February.

We received word on this mail of two short centers, one long center and a shaker for the range 6825 Aerflame. The bill was dated July 26. It cannot reach us until next summer so far as I know. As you see this does not include all the repair needed and asked for. With many thanks for all the kindnesses extended to us since we came here,

Respectfully,

(Signed) F. H. Spence.

If we are to go out, we will need money for the trip.

COPY.

May 23, 1919.

Re Barrow, Alaska.

Rev. F. H. Spence, M.D.,
Barrow, Alaska.

Dear Dr. Spence:-

As you can readily imagine, the coal situation, so far as Barrow is concerned, has been given a good deal of thought accompanied by more or less anxiety as we do not want your last year's experience to be repeated. To be located so far away from ordinary civilization in a climate that is so severely cold, without the comforting assurance that plenty of fuel is at one's disposal, is not a situation which can be met with ordinary equanimity.

Early in April I took up the question of furnishing you with two years' supply of coal and received an estimate from the Frank Waterhouse Company that they would furnish the best lump coal for $15.50 per ton, plus $80.00 per ton for delivery at Barrow, but the price did not include lighterage. To attempt to send 60 tons of coal at a cost of over $100. per ton could only be considered as a last resort.

I referred the matter to Mr. J. A. Gould of Seattle, a member of this Board, and he reported that the above price was the best that could be obtained. He suggested that we take up the matter with Commandant of the Coast Guard at Washington, D.C. in the hope that arrangements could be made to forward coal via the U.S.Steamer "Bear".

I had also been in correspondence with Mr. W. T. Lopp, Chief of the Alaska Division of the Board of Education, Seattle, advising him that we wish to avoid using Wainwright coal, if possible, in view of the statements which you had made both as to the inferior quality of the coal and the uncertainty and inconvenience in obtaining coal from that place. Hearing that Mr. Lopp would be in Washington, D.C., for a few days, I wired him for an appointment, and on Wednesday, the 14th inst., I went to Washington, making an appointment to meet Mr. Lopp the next morning at the breakfast table, we both being quartered at the same hotel.

I had a very satisfactory and lengthy conference with Mr. Lopp. I learned that while the Wainwright coal is inferior to coal from the outside, it has been used by the Government for the past ten years and has proven to be fairly satisfactory. It, of course, naturally follows that in such a far away place as the Government Mission Stations in Northwest Alaska, that some discomforts and difficulties must of necessity be borne with, and as the way stands open, as I will later explain, to provide you with a sufficient amount of outside coal to work advantageously with the Wainwright coal, we have decided to depend upon Wainwright for the larger part of the coal for your use the coming winter.

During my conversation with Mr. Lopp, and following the suggestion made by our Mr. Gould, I took up the question of whether it was possible to forward, say, ten tons of outside coal by the "Bear" and then secure the consent of the Captain to remain long enough in the vicinity of Wainwright and Barrow to

carry some thirty or thirty-five additional tons of Wainwright coal to you. Mr. Lopp immediately favored this plan and offered to interview Captain Bertholf of the U.S. Coast Guard at Washington, and as the result of the conference Mr. Lopp had with Captain Bertholf, the latter suggested that we forward to him at once a request for the transportation of ten tons of coal from Teller and such other freight as we wished transferred from Teller to Barrow, and to include in that request the transportation of native coal from Wainwright to Barrow. I immediately carried out this suggestion and sent in a formal requisition for the above coal both from Seattle and from Wainwright, the latter to cover thirty-five tons, but not less than thirty tons. This coal, when received, will furnish you with a quantity amply sufficient to carry you through the coming winter.

So long as we are unable to make new arrangements somewhat along the lines which obtained when we had the helpful assistance of Captain Backland, we must take the most practical means, all things being considered, of furnishing coal for your use. From what you have written in your letters about the Wainwright coal, I fear you will be very much disappointed in being called upon to use coal from that place this winter; we have felt that in view of the prohibitive cost of sending all outside coal, we were warranted after providing ten tons of outside coal, in depending upon the required quantity of Wainwright coal to make up the needed amount to safely carry you through next winter with planty to spare. I trust that with the ten tons of outside coal which you will receive via the "Bear" you will be able to make a proper combination with the Wainwright coal so as to provide proper warmth for both your home and the church building.

.....

It may interest you to know, as an evidence of the interest we have in your work and the thought that has been expended upon what is best to be done in addition to the time consumed in the full consideration given to you and the missionary work under your care, that we have written and received no less than forty-two letters and eight telegrams. I am stating this merely for the purpose of bringing to your mind the comforting assurance that though you are far away our interest in you permits of no abatement.

As I advised you in a previous letter, our Dr. Marquis expects to visit you when the "Bear" drops anchor at Barrow, hence I have not attempted to reply to some portions of your letter which you will find will be more satisfactorily answered by Dr. Marquis.

I trust that these letters will find you and your good wife in the best of health and that much success is attending your efforts both for the spiritual and material welfare of the people to whom you minister.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) Varian Banks

Assistant Treasurer.

P.S.-Since dictating the foregoing I have received a letter from the Chief Division of Operations, Navy Department, U.S. Coast Guard at Washington, advising that a copy

of my letter, in which request was made for the transportation of the ten tons of outside coal and for such additional freight as may be delivered to the Coast Guard Cutter "Bear", and including the transportation of thirty to thirty-five tones of coal from Wainwright to Barrow, has been forwarded to the commanding officer of that vessel, with authority to furnish the transportation as requested. This is good news and brings welcome relief from any further anxiety on the coal question.

That you may know just what the foregoing consent means, I enclose a copy of my letter addressed to Captain Bertholf.

COPY.

Barrow, Alaska, February 12, 1919.

Rec'd May 28, 1919

Mr. Varian Banks, Treasurer,
New York, N.Y..
156 Fifth Ave.

My dear Mr. Banks:-

On the evening of the day the last mail left here we showed the pictures from the slides made by the Society for the Prevention of Tuberculosis and the lantern worked the best it ever had so that the views came out the best we had ever seen them. Not long after we tried to show some of the slides of the work among the Indians and it would not work at all. On examination we found both the vertical tubes "H.E." & "J" split open just under the horizontal bar "D.S." that holds the hook for the mantle. We tried to solder it but the heat is too great there for the kind of soldering we can do here. Although you now have one of our paper of directions I am enclosing the only other one we have that you may understand what I have written. It seems to me the best course to pursue is to send a new lamp, but I leave that to you judgment.

.....

Fraternally,

(Signed) F. H. Spence.

COPY

June 2, 1919.

Re Barrow, Alaska.

Rev. F. H. Spence, M.D.,
Barrow, Alaska.

Dear Dr. Spence:-

Your letter of February 12th reached us on May 28th. Immediately upon its receipt I wrote to Messrs. Williams, Brown & Earle ordering a new Alco-Radiant Lamp. This would seem to be the best way to remedy the difficulties which you are called upon to meet from time to time. I have also requested that firm to include additional parts for such portion of the lamp as are likely to give out before the others, so as to prepare you for any ordinary emergency that may arise.

We have been much impressed with your need for a motor boat ever since you called our attention to your desire for this aid in your work, but owing to the want of funds it has been impossible to give the matter consideration. You will be glad to learn that upon receipt of your letter I also wrote to Mr. J. A. Gould, a member of our Board living in Seattle, Wash., requesting him to purchase a twelve foot boat with a three horse power Evinrude motor, with two pair of oars, and to forward same to you by the U.S."Bear", if possible, on its forthcoming trip. It may be that there is not sufficient time to send the boat forward in July, but I have asked Mr. Gould to do his best to get the boat off so that it may reach you the same time the other supplies are delivered.

.....

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Varian Banks

Assistant Treasurer.

Copy

Barrow, Alaska.

December

Twenty-six

1919.

Mr. Varian Banks, Asst. Treasurer,
New York, N. Y.
156 Fifth Ave.

My dear Mr. Banks:-

The summer mail with your letters of May and June together with the drugs and Christmas boxes arrived in Barrow December 11 by dog team. We are indebted to Mr. Neare of the Episcopal Mission at Point Hope for many kindnesses and for the large number of drugs he sent, being the greater part of the invoice For some reason the 3000 Compound Cathartic pills ordered were not included in the invoice and the Castor Oil was cut from twenty pounds to two pounds, the bottle broke and we saved less than half of it. This was the only loss in transit but it is a serious one as we use much of it with children. Fortunately we had ordered some drugs from Nome a year ago last summer and among them was 2000 Compound Cathartic pills which came at the same time as the other drugs. The bill of $60.80 for the above order from Lemen Brothers, Nome, they write me has been sent to you. I hope your Board will see their way clear not to take it out of my salary as our expenses are very high now. Two Christmasses boxes and three pails of candy came at the same time from Seattle. Mr. Brower gave us two large cases of sweet cakes and four pounds of pop corn and a large dry goods box two thirds full of toys for the children, so we had almost the usual number of presents to give to the people. We received in the mail that came with the drugs 100 letters, but the preparation necessary for Christmas has taken so much of our time I have not been able to write a letter until today.

The Christmas mail came at noon on Christmas just as the native Christmas feast began. We always attend this and help to make a happy time for them all as far as we are able, usually repeating the most popular numbers on the Christmas program of the day before. At the close of the feast I read that part of your letter in reference to the fox skin sent you two years ago.

We said last year we had the best program so far so I do not dare repeat that statement this year but we think it fully equal to the one last year though it was hard to find enough children in the village, as there has been no school owing to the lack of coal. For the first time we are not able to obtain a picture of the decorations as there is no flash light here. Though we had no new material I think we are justified in saying the decorations were the finest since we came here. So many people were away we thought there would not be the usual number at Christmas, but we were happily disappointed, there being as many if not more than last year. These people certainly do enjoy their Christmas and Easter.

If I can get time to print it will send you a copy of the program.

Mr. Varian Banks--2

Two Christmas boxes came in the last mail from our home church in San Diego,Cal with many kind remembrances. I have written to Rev. A.R.Moare of St. Thomas Episcopal Mission at Tigara(Point HOpe) thanking him for his many kindnesses and asking him to send up our supplies on the first boat coming there bound for Barrow.
Our dry goods and clothing ordered a year ago last summer from Montgomery Ward & Co. also came in the last mail. The new lamp for the stereopticon came but the container was a complete wreck and the extras spilled out in the mail sack. The lamp was twisted some but I hope can be fixed. We can not use it this year as we can have no fire in the church. We only received copies of the Geographic and American and one Popular Mechanic though this is the first mail since last April. Received in this mail a card from J.W.Hanson-Bennett Magazine Agency,223 W.Jackson Boul.Chicago,Ill saying they had received my order enclosing $11.50. Should have Numbers of Verlds Work,Review of Reviews,Everybodys as well as American and Geographic and Popular Mechanics. The Herald and Presbyter and The New Era are coming all right. Mantels are received for the Alco-Radiant lamp but the package was broken open and some of the mantels out and bent. All packages should be wood or tin for this place. Three books of poetry were received and the Thanksgiving Exercises but the Christmas Cantatas did not come. Please send others and a new Drill Book. I have Ideal Drills andThe Modern Drill and Exercise Book but would like a new one.
If you can get dumb bells and Indian clubs at the twenty five cent stores send me thirty two of each. New generaters came for the church lanterns. I doubt if I can keep these lanterns working more than this year as the founts that hold the gasoline leak and we are not able to solder them satisfactorily here. Have become quite an expert in repairing lamps and lanterns and can take them all apart and put them in order but when the font leaks have reached my limit. Would like to have the Delco System for both church and mission. If not then the hollow tube gasoline outfit. If not that then new gasoline lanterns,at least four. The gasoline tips for the lamps at the Mission came. For the last month we have had no fire at all in the church at the services and very little before. It is difficult for the natives to get enough for their own use. All the services have been held as usual but the audience small as so many are away. It has not been as cold as usual,from zero to thirty five below. So many people being away it is difficult to keep up the services at the Point. The energetic people both here and there are gone and it is really a hardship for these at the Point as they have to make two trips each Thursday,one to take me up and another to bring me home. Many of the dog teams are gone and all of them at the Point are poor travelers. The people there have not had the advantages of these here and are far behind them in every way. So much the more they need me but it is hard to get those that lack energy to see that. If there is a practical motor sled or an auto with an engine that will work at twenty five below here it is very much needed here for the Point work. I have said nothing about myself but the trip up there with the slow dog teams is very hard on me. I do not mind the trip so much on Sunday as we usually go in from an hour and a half to two hours but the trip on Thursday takes nearly twice as long. I would have bought a dog team of my

own but can not afford either to buy or feed it on the salary we receive.. The people are there however and need both spiritual and medical help. The condition is even worse at Wainwright. The spiritual condition at Wainwright is deplorable. Am sending my sermon on Sabbath desecration down there in this mail. Before I take up the important part of this letter I would refer to the coal question. We can use Wainwright coal in heating stoves very well,though it is not as good as the outside coal,but for cooking it is almost impossible. We are using blubber and oil sod and even then it is a great trial. As soon as the cooking is done we take the fire out of the range and put it in the heater. It takes more than ten xx tons and less than fifteen tons for the range each year. There should be at least thirty tons of Wainwright coal for the stoves here and at the church. We do not mix the two kinds but use the outside coal entirely for the range.
Mr. Shields, former Dist. Supt of the Bureau of Education for this district came up on the "Bear" when we came. After we had been here a year he came again and after returning to Nome he wrote us a letter in which he said,"I enjoyed seeing you and Mrs. Spence again and wish to tell you that I am especially glad to know that you are so happy and successful in your work. It was very plain that you had the full confidence of the natives and even in the superficial manner that one has to use on such a trip,I could see plainly that you are making your work of more value to Barrow than any of your predecessers had done. I believe you are especially fitted for the work at Barrow and I hope you will stay there several years. You are most highly spoken of by all the whites and natives with whom you come in contact." In the same enclosure he says,"I am sending Mr. Richardson authority to give natives who are in need of special nourishment,such as you may prescribe,orders on the store not to exceed $50.00. This will be of some assistance to you in your work." Mr. Richardson turned over what was left to me when they went away. It lasted into the third year,but was entirely gone before last winter. There is a problem however more serious than food and that is ~~food~~,fuel and clothing. Two of the worst cases last winter were aggravated by lack of fuel. The deaths of both of them were largely due to this cause. The man shook like the ague on two days when I saw him with the cold. One of his feet would have had to be amputated from frost bite had he lived,frozen in the house. Such things pull on ones heart strings. These people are every one of them in debt,most of them heavily. There are many things here people can not understand unless they come and live here. Mrs. Spence received a letter in this mail from Mrs. Richardson in which she says,"I am w wondering if you will be out this year. You certainly have surprised your friends and I imagine yourselves by staying so long. None of us thought you could stand the climate but I believe God takes care of his workers where ever they go in his service and I believe you two have done a work there at Barrow that will bear fruit as long as time shall last. You have shown to the people there that the work may be carried on in and harmony which they had not known before. God bless you and your work and take you safely back to the home land when your work there is finished."

I believe I wrote you in a previous letter of the wife of the government teacher at Wainwright being here to be confined. After her return home he wrote me as follows,"I am sorry to know that you are having to suffer yourself and Mrs. Spence to remain at your post of duty without coal to provide what little comfort there is in life in this land of ice with sorrow and gross misunderstanding. Love of the Divine that can keep one so faithfully at work, as both of you people have most faithfully done. My life has been one that has had to battle with the practical irony of life. My only help has been a strong,healthy body and a will power of my own to carry me through. Take these away from me,and I hardly believe that I would measure up to the test that you are being put to this winter. Thus only can I speak of how truly I feel towards both of you,and your great work." These things are written us voluntarily by people who have been on the ground and seen the work. It is these and many others like them that keep us humble and give us courage amidst difficulties.

On Dec. 15th there was born to Mr. and Mrs. Brower a little daughter I was not present at the birth but about one o'clock in the morning was called to see her. She is an Eskimo. About midnight the baby was born,the woman on the floor in the hand and knee position. Mr. Brower,though in the same room was not awakened until the mother was washing the child. He arose at once and was going to send for me but she seemed so well he did not. He went down stairs for something and when he returned he found his wife in a faint. Sent at once for me. When I arrived she was going from one faint into another owing to post partur hemorrhage. For an hour Mr. Brower never took his eyes off my face,anxiety written large on his face. At last he could not keep still and said,You seem to take this all right but I never saw my wife sleep like this after her children." Having already done what was needed and obtaining the right response I assured him things were all right now. Two hours after she was a different woman. This is the second time he has seen his wife brought from death's door. Twice he has been carried through a serious illness,once when only prompt action saved him. Naturally he is a friend as he has shown on numerous occasions.

Now comes the object of this letter. Since the mail came Mr. Brower gave me a letter he had received from Mr. Leffingwell. He used to live on Flaxman Island to the east of us and has known Mr. Brower for years. He wrote to consult him about endowing a hospital in Barrow. He said he was living on Easy St. and wanted to do something a la Carnegie. Said Mr. Neare of Point Hope wanted to establish a hospital at Point Barrow. That he would travel up and down the coast and take a doctor with him. Mr. Leffingwell thought a two room hospital was what was needed well stocked with medicines and under the auspices of the Episcopal church. Asked Mr. Brower what he thought of it. The year before we came here Mr. Neare visited this place. He came again with Bishop Rowe when we came,but the Bishop assured us they would not come again. Archdeacon Stuck was here two years ago and said to me repeatedly he wished he had this place,he knew he could raise large money for the largest Eskimo church and the fartherest north of any church. The next year Rev. Thomas visited us. If Mr. Neare comes in February as he writes me

it will be five times in the last six years a representative of the Episcopal Church has visited this place. Why? I have given you all the facts,I leave it to you to solve the problem,if problem there be. Have not allowed myself to indulge in any surmises but have stated what has come under my observation. All of these people are pleasant people to meet and our relations together have been cordial. I have received in this mail a complimentary copy of Archdeacon Stuck's book A Ten Thousand Miles with a Dog Sled. In this mail I also received very cordial letters both from Rev. Weare and Rev. Thomas. Have talked the hospital matter over with Mr. Brewer several times and have the impression he has formed his views of the kind of hospital needed here from these talks,he has practically said as much. I confess however there are many things in connection with the administrative part of the work that are not clear to me. There are many problems to consider as to how to separate the sick from the well,how to provide for the family if the one who provides the living is afflicted,the best way to seperate the sick from the well out of a family,how to provide food,clothes etc,etc. There will be many complications and many things to consider.

I sent you a copy of the Ritual and Hymn Book used here a year ago last summer. Did you receive it? I asked if we might not have it printed for general use here. . The new letter heads came and I wish to take this opportunity of thanking you for them. I intended to say when writing about Christmas there were three bags of coal brought in by the natives for the church. They were used to warm the church for the Christmas Exercises and what was left was consumed to warm the church for the feast. Our coldest weather is still to come with very little prospect of a fire for the services. We have enough coal for one fire through the year per Sunday if we use rigid economy. We are as well as usual at this writing.

Cordially,

F. H. Spence

Barrow, Alaska.

December

Twenty-six

1919.

Mr. Varian Banks, Asst. Treasurer,
New York, N. Y.
156 Fifth Ave.

My dear Mr. Banks:-

The summer mail with your letters of May and June together with the drugs and Christmas boxes arrived in Barrow December 11 by dog team. We are indebted to Mr. Sears of the Episcopal Mission at Point Hope for many kindnesses and for the large number of drugs he sent, being the greater part of the invoice for some reason the 3000 Compound Cathartic pills ordered were not included in the invoice and the Castor Oil was cut from twenty pounds to two pounds, the bottle broke and we saved less than half of it. This was the only loss in transit but it is a serious one as we use much of it with children. Fortunately we had ordered some drugs from Nome a year ago last summer and among them were 3000 Compound Cathartic pills which came at the same time as the other drugs. The bill of $60.00 for the above order from Lewen Brothers, Nome, they write me has been sent to you. I hope your board will see their way clear not to take it out of my salary as our expenses are very high now. Two Christmas boxes and three pails of candy came at the same time from Seattle. Mr. Brower gave us two large cases of sweet cakes and four pounds of pop corn and a large dry goods box two thirds full of toys for the children, so we had almost the usual number of presents to give to the people. We received in the mail that came with the drugs 100 letters, but the preparation necessary for Christmas has taken so much of our time I have not been able to write a letter until today.

The Christmas mail came at noon on Christmas just as the native Christmas feast began. We always attend this and help to make happy time for them all as far as we are able, usually repeating the most popular numbers on the Christmas program of the day before. At the close of the feast I read that part of your letter in reference to the fox skin sent you two years ago.

We said last year we had the best program so far so I do not care repeat that statement this year but we think it fully equal to the one last year though it was hard to find enough children in the village, as there has been no school owing to the lack of coal. For the first time we are not able to obtain a picture of the decorations as there is no flash light here. Though we had no new material I think we are justified in saying the decorations were the finest since we came here. So many people were away we thought there would not be the usual number at Christmas, but we were happily disappointed, there being as many if not more than last year. These people certainly do enjoy their Christmas and Easter.

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Two Christmas boxes came in the last mail from our home church in San Diego,Cal with many kind remembrances. I have written to Rev. A.R.Sears of St. Thomas Episcopal Mission at Tigara(Point Hope) thanking him for his many kindnesses and asking him to send up our supplies on the first boat coming there bound for Barrow.
Our dry goods and clothing ordered a year ago last summer from Montgomery Ward & Co. also came in the last mail. The new lamp for the stereopticon came but the container was a complete wreck and the extras spilled out in the mail sack. The lamp was twisted some but I hope can be fixed. We can not use it this year as we can have no fire in the church. We only received copies of the Geographic and American and one Popular Mechanic though this is the first mail since last April. Received in this mail a card from T.W.Hanser-Bennett Magazine Agency,223 W.Jackson Blvd.Chicago,Ill saying they had received my order enclosing $11.50. Should have Numbers of Worlds Work,Review of Reviews,Everybodys as well as American and Geographic and Popular Mechanics. The Herald and Presbyter and The New Era are coming all right. Mantels are received for the Alco-Radiant lamp but the package was broken open and some of the mantels cut and bent. All packages should be wood or tin for this place. Three books of poetry were received and the Thanksgiving Exercises but the Christmas Cantatas did not come. Please send others and a new Drill Book. I have local Drills andThe Modern Drill and Exercise Book but would like a new one.
If you can get dumb bells and Indian clubs at the twenty five cent stores send us thirty two of each. New generators came for the church lanterns. I doubt if I can keep these lanterns working more than this year as the founts that hold the gasoline leak and we are not able to solder them satisfactorily here. Have become quite an expert in repairing lamps and lanterns and can take them all apart and put them in order but when the font leaks have reached my limit. Would like to have the Delco System for both church and mission. If not then the Keller tube gasoline outfit. If not that then new gasoline lanterns,at least four. The gasoline tips for the lamps at the Mission came. For the last month we have had no fire at all in the church at the services and very little before. It is difficult for the natives to get enough for their own use. All the services have been held as usualxx but the audience small as so many are away. It has not been as cold as usual,from zero to thirty five below. So many people being away it is difficult to keep up the services at the Point. The energetic people both here and there are gone and it is really a hardship for those at the Point as they have to make two trips each Thursday,one to take me up and another to bring me home. Many of the dog teams are gone and all of them at the Point are poor travelers. The people there have not had the advantages of those here and are far behind them in every way. So much the more they need us but it is hard to get those that lack energy to see that. If there is a practical motor sled or an auto with an engine that will work at twenty five below here it is very much needed here for the Point work. I have said nothing about myself but the trip up there with the slow dog teams is very hard on me. I do not mind the trip so much on Sunday as we usually go in from an hour and a half to two hours but the trip on Thursday takes nearly twice as long. I would have bought a dog team of my

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Mr. Thiele, former Dist. Supt of the Bureau of Education for this district came up on the "Bear" when we came. After we had been here a year he came again and after returning to Nome he wrote us a letter in which he said,"I enjoyed seeing you and Mrs. Spence again and wish to tell you that I am especially glad to know that you are so happy and successful in your work. It was very plain that you had the full confidence of the natives and even in the superficial manner that one has to use on such a trip,I could see plainly that you are making your work of more value to Barrow than any of your predecessors had done. I believe you are especially fitted for the work at Barrow and I hope you will stay there several years. You are most highly spoken of by all the whites and natives with whom you come in contact." In the same enclosure he says,"I am sending Mr. Richardsons authority to give natives who are in need of special nourishment,such as you may prescribe,orders on the store not to exceed $50.00. This will be of some assistance to you in your work." Mr. Richardson turned over what was left to me when they went away. It lasted into the third year,but was entirely gone before last winter. There is a problem however more serious than food and that is ~~food~~,fuel and clothing. Two of the worst cases last winter were aggravated by lack of fuel. The deaths of both of them were largely due to this cause. The man shook like the ague on two days when I saw him with the cold. One of his feet would have had to be amputated from frost bite had he lived,frozen in the house. Such things pull on one's heart strings. These people are every one of them in debt,most of them heavily. There are many things here people can not understand unless they come and live here. Mrs. Spence receives a letter in this mail from Mrs. Richardson in which she says,"I am wondering if you will be out this year. We certainly have surprised your friends and I imagine yourselves by staying so long. Some of us thought you could stand the climate but I believe God takes care of his workers where ever they go in his service and I believe you two have done a work there at Barrow that will have fruit as long as time shall last. You have shown to the people there that the work may be carried on in one harmony which they had not known before. God bless you and your work and take you safely back to the home land when your work there is finished."

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On Dec. 10th there was born to Mr. and Mrs. Brower a little daughter I was not present at the birth but about one o'clock in the morning was called to see her. She is an Eskimo. About midnight the baby was born,the woman on the floor in the hand and knee position. Mr. Brower,though in the same room was not awakened until the mother was washing the child. He arose at once and was going to send for me but she seemed so well he did not. He went down stairs for something and when he returned he found his wife in a faint. Went at once for me. When I arrived she was going from one faint into another owing to post partum hemorrhage. For an hour Mr. Brower never took his eyes off my face,anxiety written large on his face. At last he could not keep still and said,You seem to take this all right but I never saw my wife sleep like this after her children." Having already done what was needed and obtaining the right response I assured him things were all right now. Two hours after she was a different woman. This is the second time he has seen his wife brought from death's door. Twice he has been carried through a serious illness,once when only prompt action saved him. Naturally he is a friend as he has shown on numerous occasions.

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Mr.Vivian Parks--3

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Cordially,

E. H. Spence

Barrow, Alaska.

February

Twenty

1920.

Dr. John Dixon,
New York, N. Y.
156 Fifth Ave.

My dear Dr. Dixon:-

I feel almost as though I owe you an apology for not addressing my Christmas letter to the Board to you, as the letter was largely explanatory. Receiving five or six hundred letters on the Christmas mail and only six days in which to answer it, Mrs. Spence and myself kept our typewriters working as many hours a day as our gray matter would permit and then were unable to answer all of the letters we wanted answered. If I remember rightly I did not come upon Dr. Condit's letter until after I had written at least a part of my letter to the Board. We have not forgotten our first letters received from you before we came to Barrow. Indeed we have them yet and have just reread them. At the time I wrote the Christmas letter my thoughts were very much taken up with the important things I had in mind for that letter and the endeavor to present them in the best possible way in order to bring speedy and needed help to these far away but worthy people.

I want to call your attention to an article written by Archdeacon Stuck in Scribner's magazine for ~~xxxii~~ July 1919, entitled "The Arctic Hospital", in which he says, "I wish very heartily that I were not at liberty to use the title set at the head of this paper; that I were compelled to say "An Arctic Hospital" instead of "The Arctic Hospital"; but so far as I know (and I think I know all the way), there is not on the American continent north of the arctic circle any institution for the care of the sick save St. Stephen's Hospital at Fort Yukon. So far as America is concerned it is "The Arctic Hospital." "There is an unfinished building at the village of Kotzebue, on the sound of that name, intended for a hospital, but no physician and no nurse. There is a physician at Point Barrow, the most northerly point of Alaska, 500 miles north of Kotzebue, but he has no place in which to take care of the sick and no nurse. I went his rounds with him one day last winter and saw a number of patients who should have been in a hospital, and I am glad to learn that there is a probability that this sore need will be supplied next summer by the Presbyterian Church which maintains the mission and the physician there. There is I am told, sometimes at the Northwest Mounted Police post at Herschel Island, on the Canadian arctic coast, 400 or 500 miles to the east of Point Barrow, but there was none last winter, nor had been since the war began, and there is no building on the island for the care of the sick. Today St. Stephen's Hospital is the only place where medical and nursing care may be had in all the "Arctic sixth" of North America."

It is an exceedingly interesting article, I wish I might quote from it at greater length. Perhaps you have already had the opportunity of reading it, if not it would repay you to look it up.

In connection with the above allow me to quote fromone of the booklets published by the National Tuberculosis Society entitled "What You Should Know About Tuberculosis," in which are these words, "The chief victims of tuberculosis are the under-nourished,ill-fed, weakened poor,and if we are to eradicate this disease,we must readjust and improve the housing,living and working conditions of our poor. This is a matter for the state and for our philanthropists and the fight against tuberculosis is in the last analysis a philanthropical and sociological problem rather than a medical one." A superficial reading might convey the idea these were contradictory terms,or the contrary they are expressions of two great needs. Archdeacon Stuck refers in his article to the change that has taken place in a people of wandering tent dwellers to a people living in stationary log-cabins and says,"Resumption of the primitive Indian conditions of life,however desirable it might be from an exclusively hygienic point of view,is out of the question; the influences agains it are entirely too strong. The remedy must be sought in improving the new conditions rather than in a return to the old."

As I have written before these people are obliged to live in an igloo of one small room,owing to cold and lack of fuel. These are all overcrowded,two or more families living in one igloo. None of them are properly lighted or ventilated. When you remember in almost every igloo from one to many have died of tuberculosis and children are born and grow up in them and in many of them people are now sick with tuberculosis and then realize that children are the most susceptible to the tuberculosis germ you can understand why so many of the Eskimo are dying of tuberculosis.

To the above is added still another problem,ignorance These people are only about thirty years removed from heathenism, know nothing of books or reading,have lived in filth and dirt all their lives. Their ignorance is appalling. The above only emphasizes the need. Something has already been done. Have used the sterioptiicon every year with slides furnished by the National Tuberculosis Society. Have given many talks on hygiene. Last year when we feared the Spanish Flu was coming here,we quarantined against it,disinfected all the houses that were occupied,had a committee inspect every house to see it was kept cleaned etc. Expect to repeat this again this year on account of the Influenza at Unalaska. There are tubercular surgical cases here now suffering for lack of a hospital and nurse. We are expecting next year if we can obtain co-operation to introduce the Health Crussders campaign into the Government school here. There is no government school this year for lack of fuel. I would like to have Nos. 3,4,5,32,33,37,39,40,43,44,48,49, of the lantern slides published by the National Tuberculosis Association. As I understand it slides are all of standard size. If this is not correct our slides are 3 3/4 x 4 inches.= 3¼X4 Would be glad to have other slides including those on Bible subjects

Although we have had no coal for a fire in the church all the church services have been kept up,most of the time without any fire,with the thermometer averaging twenty five below zero. The audience is smaller than any year before owing to the fact there is no school and so many have taken their children and gone trap-

ping. Those that are here are at the services. Mrs. Spence has charge of the Sunday School and the Endeavor meetings. Every Saturday evening a Teacher's Training Class meets at the Mission and is largely attended. Wednesday at two P.M. the teachers for the Junior Endeavor meet at the Mission and go over the lesson for the day with Mrs. Spence, interpreting it into Eskimo and at three P.M. Mrs. Spence goes with them to the church for an hour. At four P.M. the Intermediate Endeavor meets at the Mission. We can not bring the Juniors here as there are too many of them. I have been present at a number of the Intermediate meetings. There is a new leader each time and three are chosen by turn to lead in prayer. Before praying the things to pray for at that time are considered. Something like the following are the subjects suggested. Prayer for the presence of the Holy Spirit, for the sick people, for the people that are away, for the supplies for next year, especially the coal and a new hospital, prayer that God will keep the Influenza away the coming year, prayer for our friends on the outside, etc. The topic cards and Picture Roll is used in both the Junior and Intermediate. In the Intermediate each girl and boy gives a verse from memory from the Bible, on the first Wednesday of each month it is a promise. At each meeting there is a drill on the ~~Chatacism.~~ Catechism. On Sunday at four P.M. Mrs. Spence gathers around her fifteen or twenty of the young people who best understand english and goes over with them the lesson for the day, giving each one a definite thing to do and goes with them at five P.M. to the church to help the meeting in every way possible. Sunday is a full day for both of us as I hold the morning service and the opening of the Sunday School, then a service at the Point at about two P.M. and the evening service at half past seven. Mrs. Spence attends the morning and evening service, has charge of the Sunday School as Superintendent, and looks after the Senior Endeavor in the afternoon.

We thought you would be interested in the above as it would give you a more definite idea of what is being done to lift these people up.

The people of the U. S. are more or less well informed of the wonderful work of Dr. Grenfell for the Labrador people six hundred miles farther south than we are. Here is a coast from Kotzebue to Herschel Island, over a thousand miles long with five hundred people at Barrow and Point Barrow and I know not how many at the other places along the coast and no hospital or nurse any where. These are worthy people and the only ones that will ever make this part of the earth a home. If they are allowed to die out it will become practically an uninhabited as well as a barren wilderness, though it has supported a larger number than are now living can do so yet.

Surely if the people of Labrador needed medical and surgical help, these people do also. Surely if medical and surgical work was good for them and has been a success and blessing to them, and no one will be so bold as to deny it, surely it will bless and help these people. I have written you from time to time of some of the things that have already been done and of lives saved, how much more could be done with an efficient equipment.

Once more I want to call your attention to the article written by Archdeacon Stuck entitled "The Arctic Hospital." In it he says, "It(the hospital)receives and cares for sick or injured natives reguardless of any consideration except the need of the individual case---If they be in need of medical attention,they are welcome to the best we can give,without any charge whatever." This brings up a subject to which we have given and are giving much thought. It will be one of the major problems here when we have a hospital. How far that can be done wisely is a question,but on the other hand most of the people needing hospital care are unable to pay for it. In the last mail I wrote to the Red Cross asking for literature on this subject. I do hope you people will be able to send us an auto next summer if there is no auto-sled available that is practicable. I hope there is a sled that will work but if not an auto will be of great help. I see by the magazines there is a preparation called Johnson's Freeze-Proof that will cause the engine to work at fifty below zero at a very moderate cost if what they say is true. Have seen it advertised in several magazines,the one before me is the Popular Mechanics forDecember 1918.

It is only a little over a month now to Easter. Dr. Condit sent me a copy of Money the Acid Test in the Christmas mail. Have read it with much interest,some of it several times. I am planning beginning with March 14th to present it to our people here at every meeting until Easter. The great difficulty here will be to make it simple enough so they can understand it. These people are like children so far as intellect is concerned. It would be easy to cause them to give more than they are able,as they are all very much in debt. On the other hand they know nothing about systematic giving. They have no income they can depend on,they handle very little money. Their income is principally from furs and the majority get few or none. The only collection this church is accustomed to is at Easter and one in the fall for lights during the winter. Many of them go hungry for days and without fire when they can not catch seals. They live in houses and under conditions that would take away from most white men the desire to live and yet they are happy hearted and patient and cheerful. how far and how much they should be asked to give is an open question.

I wonder should you send an auto if it occurred to you it would need to be housed. In fact there should be a garage at the Point as well as here

Three or four people have been lost this winter but all fortunately found their way out or were rescued. One boy about fourteen years of age,small for his years,one of my best interpreters,left home Monday morning to look after his traps. He took no food as he expected to return that night. When he did not come his father spent part of the night looking for him. Early the next day a number of men joined in the hunt. Mrs Spence Took a number of the Intermediate Endeavors over to the mother and held a prayer meeting. About six oclock that night the boy returned by himself having found the coast about four miles from town. One native man offeeble mind was rescued five miles from town after being out from 11 P.M to 2 P.M the nextdaywith the thermometer twenty five below zero. He froze his toes,theywere saved however.

Cordially,

F H Sperry

THE LARGEST
ESKIMOS CHURCH
IN THE WORLD

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BARROW, ALASKA

THE FARTHEST NORTH
OF ANY CHURCH IN
NORTH AMERICA

REV. F. H. SPENCE, M.D.
IN CHARGE

BARROW, ALASKA

December, 29, 1919.

Miss Rec'd Apr. 5, 1920
Dec. 31st.

Elizabeth E/ Lloyd,

New York, N. Y.

156 Fifth Ave.

Dear Friend:-

I am enclosing a copy of my letter to Mr. Varian Banks. In it will be found I trust many things that will interest the friends of this mission. The shortness of the time and the large amount of mail to answer must be our excuse for the omission of a personal letter.

Cordially,

F. H. Spence

POSTAL TELEGRAPH – COMMERCIAL CABLES

CLARENCE H. MACKAY, PRESIDENT.

COUNTER No.

TIME FILED.

M

TELEGRAM

CHECK

The Postal Telegraph-Cable Company (Incorporated) transmits and delivers this message subject to the terms and conditions printed on the back of this blank

SEND the following Telegram, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to.

[DESIGN PATENT No. 40529]

2/513

156 Fifth Avenue, New York
April 5, 1920.

Rev. F. H. Spence, M.D.,

[redacted] Barrow, Alaska.

Yours December twentyseventh received. Marquis has received twenty-five thousand dollars for hospital. This makes unnecessary proposed Episcopal Hospital.

JOHN DIXON

(P A I D)

Rec'd Sept - per steamer
reply sent by Str Nan Mc B.

(Via Canada)

POSTAL TELEGRAPH-CABLE COMPANY IN CONNECTION WITH THE COMMERCIAL CABLE COMPANY

[1, 2 AND 16]

THE GREATEST TELEGRAPH AND CABLE SYSTEM IN THE WORLD. EXTENDS OVER TWO-THIRDS OF THE WAY AROUND THE EARTH.

THE POSTAL TELEGRAPH-CABLE COMPANY (INCORPORATED)

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To guard against mistakes or delays, the sender of a telegram should order it REPEATED; that is, telegraphed back to the originating office for comparison. For this, one-half the unrepeated telegram rate is charged in addition. Unless otherwise indicated on its face, THIS IS AN UNREPEATED TELEGRAM AND PAID FOR AS SUCH, in consideration whereof it is agreed between the sender of the telegram and this Company as follows:

1. The Company shall not be liable for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for non-delivery, of any UNREPEATED telegram, beyond the amount received for sending the same; nor for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for non-delivery, of any REPEATED telegram, beyond fifty times the sum received for sending the same. UNLESS SPECIALLY VALUED; nor in any case for delays arising from unavoidable interruption in the working of its lines; NOR FOR ERRORS IN CIPHER OR OBSCURE TELEGRAMS.

2. In any event the Company shall not be liable for damages for any mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for the non-delivery of this telegram, whether caused by the negligence of its servants or otherwise, beyond fifty times the REPEATED telegram rate, at which amount this telegram, if sent as a REPEATED telegram, is hereby valued, unless a greater value is stated in writing hereon at the time the telegram is offered to the Company for transmission, and an additional sum paid or agreed to be paid based on such value equal to one-tenth of one per cent. thereof.

3. The Company is hereby made the agent of the sender, without liability, to forward this telegram over the lines of any other Company when necessary to reach its destination.

4. Messages will be delivered free within the established free delivery limits of the terminal office. For delivery at a greater distance a special charge will be made to cover the cost of such delivery.

5. No responsibility regarding messages attaches to this Company until the same are presented and accepted at one of its transmitting offices; and, if any message is sent to such office by one of this Company's messengers, he acts as the agent of the sender for the purpose of delivering the message and any notice or instructions regarding it to the Company's agent in its said office.

6. The Company shall not be liable for damages or statutory penalties in any case where the claim is not presented in writing within sixty days after the telegram is filed with the Company for transmission.

7. The above terms and conditions shall be binding upon the receiver as well as the sender of this telegram.

8. NO EMPLOYEE OF THIS COMPANY IS AUTHORIZED TO VARY THE FOREGOING.

CLARENCE H. MACKAY, PRESIDENT.

CHARLES C. ADAMS, VICE-PRESIDENT. EDWARD REYNOLDS, VICE-PREST. AND GENERAL MANAGER. CHARLES P. BRUCH, VICE-PRESIDENT.

THE LARGEST ESKIMOS CHURCH IN THE WORLD

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BARROW, ALASKA

THE FARTHEST NORTH OF ANY CHURCH IN NORTH AMERICA

REV. F. H. SPENCE, M.D.
IN CHARGE

BARROW, ALASKA

December 27, 1919.

John A. Marquis, D. D.

New York, N. Y.

156 Fifth Ave.

My dear Dr. Marquis:-

Your letter written at Point Hope Aug. 14, Arrived in Barrow with the most of the drugs and two of the Christmas boxes and three pails of candy on December 11. You may be sure it was all welcome. Was delighted Mr. Hoare was able to send such a large proportion of the drugs. We are very well fixed now until next summer with one or two exceptions. But how we wish you could have reached Barrow last summer. That wish grows on us every day. I think the points mentioned in your letter have been answered in my previous letters as far as we are able at this time.
The only thing to add is,just take it for granted we have no resources here to call upon except labor and will need every thing in the construction of a hospital building.
Let me urge upon you the necessity of supplying at least eighty tons of coal each year for this place if you build a hospital. The plant already here requires forty tons to properly maintain it and the hospital will require at least forty tons a year more.

I am enclosing in this a copy of a letter I am sending to Mr Varian Banks by this mail. In it I have tried to give conditions here as I see them. It seems to us on the ground,this mission has reached a crisis in its history requiring prompt action if it is to have a history worthy of its past. To us "who see now through a glass darkly," it seems a great misfortune you were not able to reach Barrow last summer. That is the one thing that has crippled the work here,the lack of personal supervision by some member of your Board and the personal touch with your workers on the ground. In my letters I have tried as much as in me lay to give your Board some of the problems here but more accurate information by personal inspection than is possible by letter. Having done the best we knew how the issue is with your Board and in the hands of the Lord. One of our surprises in the mail was a trial case for fitting glasses. As yet we do not know the donor but are very grateful, whoever it is. Doubtless I have omitted things you would like to know. We can hardly do ourselves justice with such a large mail at the Christmas season and less than a week to answer it.

Cordially,

F. H. Spence

can be obtained

APR 19 1920

P.S. It has occurred to me that possibly what wassaid in the letter to Mr. Banks in regard to the representatives of the Episcopal church might be construed into a reflection on them. Such was not our intention. We have received many kindnesses from them and our relations have been, and so far as I know are still most cordial. There are matters that should be discussed and better understood by your Board that it is not wise to take up in a letter and yet they concern vitally the life and prosperity of this mission. Neither could they be properly considered in the short time given by a visit on the "Bear". The Episcopals are wise in keeping constant watch over and protection of their missions. This is a country hostil to missions and missionaries and they need a proper defence and oversight. It is not my purpose to be an alarmist,but I do feel your Board need an awakening and a better understanding of conditions as they really are. It is not wise to discuss such grave conditions at long distance both of time and space.

Cordially,

F. H. Spence.

There is one thing I have spoken of but wish to emphasize and that is it is wrong,I was about to say it is wicked to leave this people without a doctor.

APR 20 1921

Alaska Telephone & Telegraph Co.

Received Candle, Alaska April 5" 1920 4 Pm Paid

New York April 5 1920

F.H.Spence Barrow Alaska

Plans completed twenty five thousand dollars hospital this summer Episcopal hospital unnecessary

John Dixon

Form 1228

Charge to the account of _____ $_____

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
Telegram	
Day Letter	
Night Message	
Night Letter	

Patrons should mark an X opposite the class of service desired; OTHERWISE THE MESSAGE WILL BE TRANSMITTED AS A FULL-RATE TELEGRAM

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

Receiver's No.
Check
Time Filed

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

April 5th, 1920.

F. H. Spence,

Barrow, Alaska. (Via Candle)

Plans completed twenty five thousand dollar hospital this summer. Episcopal hospital unnecessary.

JOHN DIXON

POSTAL TELEGRAPH – COMMERCIAL CABLES

CLARENCE H. MACKAY, PRESIDENT

COUNTER No.

TIME FILED M

TELEGRAM

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[DESIGN PATENT No. 40529]

2/513

TREASURER'S DEPT.

156 Fifth Avenue, New York
April 5, 1920.

Rev. F. H. Spence, M.D.,

[redacted] Barrow, Alaska.

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JOHN DIXON

(P A I D)

Via Candle

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JOHN DIXON

APR 9 1920

"Copy"

Barrow, Alaska

July
First
1920.

To the Honorable Commissioner of Education,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

During the past year we have been fortunate in not having any serious epidemic of sickness. The birthrate has been less than usual and has exceeded the death rate, notwithstanding there has been more than usual still births.

There have been one or two cases of post-partum hemorrhage, but they have all been saved. These cases are due largely to meddlesome midwifery. During the year I called those who are acting as midwives together at the mission.

By illustrations I showed the nature of the injury they are doing so clearly I think they understood it. Steps will certainly be taken to protect confinement cases in the future, especially primipera.

This has been a year of accidents. The first was one of the herd boys who broke his clavicle. It was a green stick fracture but by a hard fall on the shoulder was made a complete fracture. He made a good recovery. Last April one of our young men while playing foot ball suffered a fracture of the humerus near to and into the elbow joint, what is commonly called a T fracture.

The force was a severe crushing force, and though we saw it within two hours after the accident, that arm was an inch larger around than the other, and within twenty four hours it was two inches larger than the other, and this swelling did not subside for five weeks. Although the arm was so much enlarged the shoulder wasted until it was much smaller than the other. This wasting occurred early. For forty eight hours we tried to reduce the swelling with ice and producing no result tried heat for twenty fourx hours.

So anxious were we to reduce the swelling that we might be able better to set the arm that some burns were produced, because of inexperienced help. We took the boy and his mother into the mission and kept them for five weeks though we had so little coal that we had kept only one fire all winter. We tried to find as well as we could for the swelling the line and triangle between the condyles and the tip of the olecranon and to preserve the "carrying" angle.

Passive motion was begun early but carefully. A four and a half pound weight was used for ten days.

The right angled splint was removed at the end of five weeks. It is now the middle of the third month and we have complete pronation and supination and extension and flexion to a right angle and beyond. He can put his hand into his mouth and upon his head. When the swelling is entirely gone

and the callus is absorbed he will undoubtedly have extreme flexion or nearly so. Even now we require this case to come to the office every day and report. A native is not like a white man ,he lacks his intelligence and perseverance.

We have had to show,and urge and insist to obtain the results we have so far. We have put more work on the time since the expiration of the first five weeks than on the first five weeks,though we watched the case daily.

This case has given us more anxiety than all the cases we have had in the five years we have been here and the result is far better than we thought was possible when we first saw the accident.

The natives have what is called a "skin dance" here in the spring after whaling is over. This year there were two accidents,the first of any account, since we came. An old lady broke the radius at the wrist. There was however no crushing force as in the preceeding case and little swelling. We were able to put it in splints at once as there was little swelling and little displacement. So far she is doing well and though it is near the joint and she is well along in years it looks now as though she would still have a useful hand and arm.

Another woman had an unusual and singular accident,dislocating the x second,third and fourth meta tarsal bones upward and backword on the tarsus. We saw it soon after it happened,before swelling occurred and was able to reduce the dislocation at once. There was considerable swelling for a few days,but at this writing the case is doing well.

You undoubtedly know that at last we are to have a hospital at this place,for which we are all thankful. I think the cases detailed above will convince you of the need of a hospital here and they are a small part of the years work. We have an eye case now in a child about four or five years of age of a serious nature that needs care to save its sight that only a trained nurse can give.

Have said nothing of the tuberculous cases though they are the principal cases being by far the larger number for which a hospital is needed.

Respectfully,

J. H. Prince

"Copy"

Barrow, Alaska

July
First
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Respectfully,

Barrow, Alaska,

July
Fifteen

1 9 2 0

John Dixon, D. D.
New York, N. Y.
156 Fifth Ave.

My dear Dr. Dixon:-

Your letter of November 15th reached us in the April mail, the last until the Point came, so we have not had his to answer it until then. We take this the first opportunity to thank you and through you the Board for the increase in our salaries, dating from last October. Yes she live outside into consideration of the increased cost of living, but we are in the far north are at the mercy of the trader who only needs a hint of prices soaring to put them sky high. Surely we are grateful for this help in our hour of need.

We are enclosing statistical report filled out as best we can. It will not reach you I fear in time to be of any use and will I know be unsatisfactory. The only record kept here is that of the Sunday School except the Church Record. We have two church services here on Sunday and one at the Point. We also have Sunday School and Senior Endeavor each Sunday, both of which are under the care of Mrs. Spence. We have prayer meeting every Wednesday night and Mrs. Spence has Intermediate and Junior Endeavor every Wednesday afternoon. All of these are attended by all the people that are in or are visiting except the sick. The sick are visited every Friday and Monday by committees regularly appointed. We tried last winter to give Monday the Acts Text to these people on five different occasions, but we had to simplify it so much in order that they might understand it, and even then I fear it went over their heads.

When we came here we began the Bible at Genesis on Sunday mornings, the book of Acts on Sunday evenings and the Gospels on Wednesday nights. We have reached first Chron. finished the Gospels and will finish Revelations in three weeks. These people can not understand the Bible as written, as many of the words are beyond their comprehension as it has to be put in primer words. We have not confined ourselves exclusively to this schedule as we often speak on special subjects as the time or occasion calls for, as at Christmas, Easter, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving, etc.

We also take up special subjects as occasion arises. We have not written in the blank space in the statistical report but in this letter instead as there was not room there to say all we had in mind.

Your letter of December 13th in regard to the matter of vacations for missionaries in Alaska came also in the April mail. We do not understand whether it is

intended as a notice that we are to have a vacation this year or not. When we received it we did not want to look on it in that light but now we feel it is almost imperative we should go out this summer. The year has been the hardest one since we came in many ways. We do not refer to the lack of coal. All the services have been kept up in the church with little or no fire,most of the time none at all,but they were all attended by all that were in the village. The thermometer was most of the time at or near twenty five below zero and sometimes lower. The breath of the people would form a little vapor in the church. We had to see steams and whisps while talking. We had only one fire at the minister all winter and the one room was kitchen,dining room,bed room,living room,office room,drug room, surgery, and nursery.

These however are only minor difficulties and are easily overcome,it is in the spiritual work where the strain lies. This situation needs the prayers of all good people that it may be lifted out of darkness into light.

Because of some of the things we have been through this year the health of Mrs. Symons and myself is very much impaired. The last of May I suffered from what at the time I supposed was a slight attack of snow blindness in my right eye but found it was some serious trouble and that I had a much more serious condition in the left eye. Mrs. Symons is needing the care of an oculist and a dentist as we are hoping the eye will open for the tooth coming out.

The thing that embarrasses us is our request a year ago to remain,but at that time we were in fairly good health and knew nothing of what the year had in store for us. We are hoping and praying that upon receipt of your board will come up this summer. There are many things yet and we know that can not be written in a letter.

Nearly the usual number of people were here on Easter but they were weak in their coming in their wheels,many not reaching the village until a day or so before. Only two joined the church this year because every one who could personally joined. There were only nine baptisms this year,the smallest number since we came. This was due to the large number of shut-ins and to a few being away at Easter.

The Easter collection as it now stands is print Tagrea $14.30 and Harvey $7.50,total $21.80. In addition to this $15.00 was paid on the collection for the support of the church before a year ago,as follows,Demetia $10.00,Tim Imik $3.00 Carl Talak $1.00, George Tagra Leavitt $2.00, Ittak $2.00,Mary E. $3.00. I shall have to plead guilty to making no effort this last year towards taking a second collection for the support of the church,leaving as I do the poverty of this people.

I believe it would do them good spiritually to give each year to the support of the church,but I believe some thing should be done first to right some of the wrongs under which they are laboring. With the above collections come to $15.80. I am hoping the people here as you will please take it out of our salary. In addition to the above there are the very poor for whom I could get but $7.00 for it care as we usually do for them.

We have the Sunday question here the same as you do on the outside and for the same reason,the Almighty Dollar and to this is added here at least Politics with a large P,but for that matter the Almighty Dollar is behind Politics also.

Ever since the white man came to this north land he has exploited the native. He began by corrupting their women,transmitting through them a disease far more dreadful in its results to posterity than tuberculosis,both being intensified and much harder to cure when combined. Many have been and are the women with loathsome sores,for too many are the cases of still-births,far too many are the number of incompetents". The only person frozen to death in the five years we have been here was the wife of one of these incompetents,because he did not know enough to care for her. The man who froze his feet and also two years ago was an incompetent. The man who froze his feet last winter was an incompetent and he would have froze to death had not the people searched for and found him. There are altogether too many incompetent children growing up. One child born this year was without the top of its head. One woman has had ten children both of them losing their mind before they were a year old. Many women have two,three and four miscarriages before they have a live child. One of our young men had a disease of the nerves due to syphilis inherited from his ancestors,and had there been no medical help here,he would today be blind. As it was it took a year of constant watching to save his sight. There are too many blind people here for the number of inhabitants. One little girl now,only about four years old is afflicted with the same trouble and liable to lose her sight. One boy at the Point is paralized and helpless from the same cause. When you see all these things it makes your heart ache and I can not tell it all.

But only are these people ruined in body but they are ruined financially and are kept in debt so deeply that they are practically slaves. As if it was not enough to ruin them physically and financially, the power of the Almighty Dollar in the hands of the traders and politician seeks compell them to work seven days in the week. Whaling is a gamble,if a large whale is caught it means large money in here,if no large whale is caught it is money out. But gambling to get rich is no new thing in this world.

A year ago this spring the first whale was caught on Tuesday. We had taught the Ten Commandments and had preached more than once on the Fourth Commandment. We knew we would be opposing two powerful interests if we took it up,but we decided we would rather go out or be sent out than be missionaries of a church that habitually broke the Sabbath. Accordingly we called a meeting of the Eskimos and went over the ground carefully giving them a synopsis of the sermon we preached as soon as the whalers were all in. While we were talking to them we said,"You had better look up the church or burn it down if you are going to break the Sabbath habitually." That proved to be an unfortunate remark. One of the elders is hard of hearing and reported us as saying, "I will lock any one out of the church who whales on Sunday" and this was distorted to "I will lock up the church if you whale on Sunday." Learned of the garbled version in a day or so,corrected it and told the council to correct it. It is difficult to convey

to a primitive people ideas except in crude language. A better form of words might have been chosen.

As the result of the person not more whales were caught on Sunday, but thirteen whales were caught, the largest number since he came here. Sickness only one or two were of great size, there was however an abundance of meat and blubber. This spring a united effort was made to break down the Sabbath, the representatives of the government going so far as to tell the people "The government wants you to whale on Sunday from the President down." No whales have been caught ~~on Sunday~~ during the spring whales except one very small one and a little calf and these not on Sunday, they could not catch them if they wanted to. This was due to ice conditions. Since the attempt to break down the Sabbath I talked with some of my sisters and brethren and asked them if they thought it necessary to work seven days in the week to provide food and fuel for the people. Their reply was, "Not if they are not lazy." I talked with one of our spiritual men and he said, "We do not think it right to whale on Sunday and we do not want to but if we do not obey the head(?)workers will get into trouble." another man was not was a harder nail, "we have to do as the head men says." I asked one of our bright young men if they would have to hunt seven days in the week in order to get enough food and blubber and he said, "no, if you are not lazy." Seal can be caught here the year around, they being in the river, lake and ocean all the time. This "menace" about food and fuel is explained by a word much used during the war "camouflage". There may be some scarcity of food and fuel the coming winter, depending largely on how much the people exercise themselves during the summer.

Why not be constructive were here instead of destructive. Send up two caterpillar engines with trailers. Two are needed if accidents happen to pull each other out. There is plenty of coal from sixty to a hundred miles from here, some of it as good as outside coal. Or better yet send up a competent man to locate coal nearer. I am satisfied there is plenty of coal if we knew where to find it. Lift up and help these people instead of teaching them to break the laws of God and man.

In Archdeacon Stuck's book "Ten Thousand Miles with a Dog Sled," are these words, "When, somewhat late in the day, the government set its hand to the education of the natives, mission schools had been conducted for many years at the five stations of the Episcopal Church above Tanana and at the various stations below that point. The Bureau of Education professed its earnest purpose of working in harmony with the mission authorities.--It can not be stated, upon a survey of the last five years, that this profession has been carried out. The administration of the Bureau of Education has shared the work the common fault of other departments of the government in a detached and lofty, not to say supercilious attitude. Things are not necessarily right because a government bureau order them, nor are government officials invested with superior wisdom merely by reason of their connection with Washington."

For many years the Bureau of Education has been sending a man and his family up here to stay one or more years and given to him supreme authority. This was unofficial under all circumstances where there was a difference of opinion. First. That is not good for the man. An illuminating sentence is found in an article published in Scribner's recently entitled Instincts and Business, by Edgar James Swift. It is as follows"It is a rare man who can resist the infection of arrogance when exposed to the germ that inhabits high places." Second. It is not good for the people. The method of government has been too largely fear,fear of the government. Fear will oppress any people and develops in them the very traits Christianity wishes to overcome. These people are not as fit for self government today as they were before they knew the white man. Have tried to have a beginning more in teaching them self government but always met with opposition. It is claimed they can not be trusted with power,they are treacherous. Why should they not be after the way they have been exploited? We have found however if you give them a square deal they will meet you more than half way. Stefansson Stark wrote after he had seen this,"I think there are no native people anywhere on the earth so richly entitled to the intelligent consideration of civilized mankind as the Eskimos,for there cannot be anywhere else such brave and resourceful and light hearted folk as these utterly barren and naked land, pitting themselves against such ferocity of wind and cold."

A people of that description are capable of being educated to self government. In the World's Work for Dec. 1918 in an article entitled "A Case for Bolshevism which says,"Fundamentally our Government is an instrument by which a virtuous people will look after their own interests. It did not include machinery externally grinding groups who prefer to be managed rather than to manage themselves." In the same magazine in an article"As Others See Us," which says,"The typical American is simple,even naive at times,and his ideals too are simple and primitive,not warped by a life weary civilization. They rest on those essential truths upon which all morality must again and again be rebuilt-the right of the individual,the freedom of the individual,for all persons and all nations whether great or small. This passion for freedom is what spells "Democracy" to an American." Home rule and exploitation is as an arsenal and an anachronism as the year 1918 in the United States of America.,the home of "Democracy."

It would not be wise to give these people self government until they are taught,but a beginning should be made at once. They are surely as worthy of effort to lift up as the black people of the south were. Let us wake up to our responsibility.

Third. It is not good for this mission. What has been already said would show it if the past history had not emphasized it.

This government when founded separated church and state and they should remain so. To unite them is and always will be to the disadvantage of the church,at least in this part of the world.

JUL 12 1920

Barrow, Alaska.

February

Twenty

1920.

Dr. John Dixon,
New York, N. Y.
156 Fifth Ave.

My dear Dr. Dixon:-

I feel almost as though I owe you an apology for not addressing my Christmas letter to the Board to you, as the instructions received from Dr. Condit were surely explicit enough. We received something like two hundred letters on the Christmas mail and only six days in which to answer it. Mrs. Spence and myself kept our typewriters working as many hours a day as our gray matter would permit and then were unable to answer all of the letters we wanted answered. If I remember rightly I did not come upon Dr. Condit's letter until after I had written at least a part of my letter to the Board. We have not forgotten our first letters received from you before we came to Barrow. Indeed we have them yet and have just reread them. At the time I wrote the Christmas letter My thoughts were very much taken up with the important things I had in mind for that letter and the endeavor to present them in the best possible way in order to bring speedy and needed help to these far away but worthy people.

I want to call your attention to an article written by Archdeacon Stuck inScribner's magazine for ~~April~~ July 1919, entitled "The Arctic Hospital", inwhich he says, "I wish very heartily that I were not at liberty to use the title set at the head of this paper; that I were compelled to say "An Arctic Hospital" instead of "The Arctic Hospital"; but so far as I know (and I think I know all the way), there is not on the American continent north of the arctic circle any institution for the care of the sick save St. Stephen's Hospital at Port Yukon. So far as America is concerned it is "The Arctic Hospital." "There is an unfinished building at the village of Kotzebue, on the sound of that name, intended for a hospital, but no physician and no nurse. There is a physician at Point Barrow, the most northerly point of Alaska, 500 miles north of Kotzebue, but he has no place in which to take care of the sick and no nurse. I went his rounds with him one day last winter and saw a number of patients who should have been in a hospital, and I am glad to learn that there is a probability that this sore need will be supplied next summer by the Presbyterian Church which maintains the mission and the physician there. There is I am told, sometimes at the Northwest Mounted Police post at Herschel Island, on the Canadian arctic coast, 400 or 500 miles to the east of Point Barrow, but there was none last winter, nor had been since the war began, and there is no building on the island for the care of the sick. Today St. Stephen's Hospital is the only place where medical and nursing care may be had in all the "Arctic sixth" of North America."

It is an exceedingly interesting article, I wish I might quote from it at greater length. Perhaps you have already had the opportunity of reading it, if not it would repay you to look it up.

In connection with the above allow me to quote from one of the booklets published by the National Tuberculosis Society entitled "What You Should Know About Tuberculosis," in which are these words, "The chief victims of tuberculosis are the under-nourished, ill-fed, weakened poor, and if we are to eradicate this disease, we must readjust and improve the housing, living and working conditions of our poor. This is a matter for the state and for our philanthropists and the fight against tuberculosis is in the last analysis a ~~xxx~~ philarthropical and sociological problem rather than a medical one." A superficial reading might convey the idea these were contradictory terms, on the contrary they are expressions of two great needs. Archdeacon Stuck refers in his article to the change that has taken place in a people of wandering tent dwellers to a people living in stationary log-cabins and says, "Resumption of the primitive Indian conditions of life, however desirable it might be from an exclusively hygienic point of view, is out of the question; the influences against it are entirely too strong. The remedy must be sought in improving the new conditions rather than in a return to the old."

As I have written before these people are obliged to live in an igloo of one small room, owing to cold and lack of fuel. These are all overcrowded, two or more families living in one igloo. None of them are properly lighted or ventilated. When you remember in almost every igloo from one to many have died of tuberculosis and children are born and grow up in them and in many of them people are now sick with tuberculosis and then realize that children are the most susceptible to the tuberculosis germ you can understand why so many of the Eskimo are dying of tuberculosis.

To the above is added still another problem, ignorance These people are only about thirty years removed from heathenism, know nothing of books or reading, have lived in filth and dirt all their lives. Their ignorance is appalling. The above only emphasizes the need. Something has already been done. Have used the stereopticon every year with slides furnished by the National Tuberculosis Society. Have given many talks on hygiene. Last year when we feared the Spanish Flu was coming here, we quarantined against it, disinfected all the houses that were occupied, had a committee inspect every house to see it was kept cleaned etc. Expect to repeat this again this year on account of the Influenza at Unalaska. There are tubercular surgical cases here now suffering for lack of a hospital and nurse. We are expecting next year if we can obtain co-operation to introduce the Health Crusaders campaign into the Government school here. There is no government school this year for lack of fuel. I would like to have Nos. 3,4,5,32,33,37,39,40,43,44,46,48, of the lantern slides published by the National Tuberculosis Association. As I understand it slides are all of standard size. If this is not correct our slides are 3 1/4 x 4 inches.=3¼X4 Would be glad to have other slides including those on Bible subjects

Although we have had no coal for a fire in the church all the church services have been kept up, most of the time without any fire, with the thermometer averaging twenty five below zero. The audience is smaller than any year before owing to the fact there is no school and so many have taken their children and gone trap-

ping. Those that are here are at the services. Mrs. Spence has charge of the Sunday School and the Endeavor meetings. Every Saturday evening a Teacher's Training Class meets at the Mission and is largely attended. Wednesday at two P.M. the teachers for the Junior Endeavor meet at the Mission and go over the lesson for the day with Mrs. Spence, interpreting it into Eskimo and at three P.M. Mrs. Spence goes with them to the church for an hour. At four P.M. the Intermediate Endeavor meets at the Mission. We can not bring the Juniors here as there are too many of them. I have been present at a number of the Intermediate meetings. There is a new leader each time and three are chosen by turn to lead in prayer. Before praying the things to pray for at that time are considered. Something like the following are the subjects suggested. Prayer for the presence of the Holy Spirit, for the sick people, for the people that are away, for the supplies for next year, especially the coal and a new hospital, prayer that God will keep the Influenza away the coming year, prayer for our friends on the outside, etc.
The topic cards and Picture Roll is used in both the Junior and Intermediate. In the Intermediate each girl and boy gives a verse from memory from the Bible, on the first Wednesday of each month it is a promise. At each meeting there is a drill on the Catechism. Catechism
On Sunday at four P.M. Mrs. Spence gathers around her fifteen or twenty of the young people who best understand English and goes over with them the lesson for the day, giving each one a definite thing to do and goes with them at five P.M. to the church to help the meeting in every way possible. Sunday is a full day for both of us as I hold the morning service and the opening of the Sunday School, then a service at the Point at about two P.M. and the evening service at half past seven. Mrs. Spence attends the morning and evening service, has charge of the Sunday School as Superintendent, and looks after the Senior Endeavor in the afternoon.

We thought you would be interested in the above as it would give you a more definite idea of what is being done to lift these people up.

The people of the U. S. are more or less well informed of the wonderful work of Dr. Grenfell for the Labrador people six hundred miles farther south than we are. Here is a coast from Kotzebue to Herschel Island, over a thousand miles long with five hundred people at Barrow and Point Barrow and I know not how many at the other places along the coast and no hospital or nurse any where. These are worthy people and the only ones that will ever make this part of the earth a home. If they are allowed to die out it will become practically an uninhabited as well as a barren wilderness, though it has supported a larger number than are now living can do so yet.

Surely if the people of Labrador needed medical and surgical help, these people do also. Surely if medical and surgical work was good for them and has been a success and blessing to them, and no one will be so bold as to deny it, surely it will bless and help these people. I have written you from time to time of some of the things that have already been done and of lives saved, how much more could be done with an efficient equipment.

Dr. John Dixon--1

Once more I want to call your attention to the article written by Archdeacon Stuck entitled "The Arctic Hospital." In it he says, "It(the hospital)receives and cares for sick or injured natives regardless of any consideration except the need of the individual case---If they be in need of medical attention,they are welcome to the best we can give,without any charge whatever." This brings up a subject to which we have given and are giving much thought. It will be one of the major problems here when we have a hospital. How far that can be done wisely is a question,but on the other hand most of the people needing hospital care are unable to pay for it. In the last mail I wrote to the Red Cross asking for literature on this subject. I do hope you people will be able to send us an auto next summer if there is no auto-sled available that is practicable. I hope there is a sled that will work but if not an auto will be of great help. I see by the magazines there is a preparation called Johnson's Freeze-Proof that will cause the engine to work at fifty below zero at a very moderate cost if what they say is true. Have seen it advertised in several magazines,the one before me is the Popular Mechanics forDecember 1918.

It is only a little over a month now to Easter. Dr. Condit sent me a copy of Money the Acid Test in the Christmas mail. Have read it with much interest,some of it several times. I am planning beginning with March 14th to present it to our people here at every meeting until Easter. The great difficulty here will be to make it simple enough so they can understand it. These people are like children so far as intellect is concerned. It would be easy to cause them to give more than they are able,as they are all very much in debt. On the other hand they know nothing about systematic giving. They have no income they can depend on,they handle very little money. Their income is principally from furs and the majority get few or none. The only collection this church is accustomed to is at Easter and one in the fall for lights during the winter. Many of them go hungry for days and without fire when they can not catch seals. They live in houses and under conditions that would take away from most white men the desire to live and yet they are happy hearted and patient and cheerful. How far and how much they should be asked to give is an open question.

I wonder should you send an auto if it occurred to you it would need to be housed. In fact there should be a garage at the Point as well as here

Three or four people have been lost this winter but all fortunately found their way out or were rescued. One boy about fourteen years of age,small for his years,one of my best interpreters,left home Monday morning to look after his traps. He took no food as he expected to return that night. When he did not come his father spent part of the night looking for him. Early the next day a number of men joined in the hunt. Mrs Spence Took a number of the Intermediate Endeavors over to the mother and held a prayer meeting. About six oclock that night the boy returned by himself having found the coast about four miles from town. One native man offeeble mind was rescued five miles from town after being out from 11 P.M to 2 P.M the nextdaywith the thermometer twenty five below zero. He froze his toes, theywerecared however.

Cordially,

F. Fitzpatrick

JUL 13 1920

THE LARGEST ESKIMOS CHURCH IN THE WORLD

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BARROW, ALASKA

THE FARTHEST NORTH OF ANY CHURCH IN NORTH AMERICA

REV. F. H. SPENCE, M.D.
IN CHARGE

BARROW, ALASKA

February, 27, 1920.

Dr. John Dixon,
New York, N. Y.
156 Fifth Ave.

My dear Dr. Dixon:-

The third and fourth lines in the enclosed letter should read,"instructions received from Dr. Condit were surely explicit enough. We received something like two hundred letters in the Christmas mail." Did not discover the typewriter going wrong until I reached the sixth line.

I want to ask you to send me one hundred Record of Health Chores based on the Rules of Modern Health Crusaders, published by the National Tuberculosis Association,381 Fourth Ave, New York. I want to try to get this into the government school here next year. Have them send any thing else they think needed.

Will you also send me six ounces of Iodoform and 2000 Tablets of Aspirin. I find I have not enough of either.

You will notice from the date of this it is nearly time for the last winter mail to go out as it starts the first of March. The second incoming winter mail usually reaches here about the twenty first of February. It is not here yet. This is due to an unusually bad trail,heavy snows and changeable winds.

Should it not arrive before the first of March we will not be able to answer our letters until the ships come in August, if they come,

May I ask if the Church at Englewood, N. J. is still contributing to the support of this mission? Have been sending them letters for four years now,through Elizabeth E. Lloyd but have never heard any thing from them. Am perfectly willing to continue though it is hard to keep up any enthusiasm in reguard to people one never hears from.

If we are to remain another year and the hospital is to be built next year please order a copy of the Journal of the Outdoor Life sent to me,also a copy of How to Live by Irving Fisher and Eugene Lyman Fisk,M.D.. Also a copy of Fresh Air and How to Use It by Thomas Spees Carrington,M.D.

Should the mail come before this goes may write more.

Cordially,

F. H. Spence

Dr. John Dixon--2

I have a letter from the Seattle Hardware Co. dated Aug 2nd 1919, saying they had shipped a bill of hardware to Kotzebue via S. S Cordova In a separate enclosure is a bill of lading as follows, 1 Box Stove Polish,1 Box Fire clay,2 Boxes Cement,1 Pail Stove Putty, 3 Crates Terra Cotta Pipe,1 Box Stove Castings, 1 Box Stove Lids and a second enclosure of 1 Lining for Economy Heating Stove via Bender Brothers. Bender Brothers was here but no stove lining was delivered. Suppose above shipment is still at Kotzebue,but have received no notice. Have also notice of shipment ofboat, motor,oars,lubricating oil,gasoline and extra engine parts which are at Point Hope. Have also notice of shipment of Three boxes of paint and one bbl of stain via "Bear" which I suppose are at Point Hope. Rev. Hoare will look after the things at Point Hope but who is looking out for the shipment at Kotzebue I do not know. Will write to the Postmaster at Kotzebue and ask him to look after and start it up this way next summer.

Also please send me one dozen each case vials as follows,diameter 9/16,length 1,3/4 inches, diam. 9/16 length 3,7/8, diam. 13/16 length 3,3/4.

Mar. 1. Mail not arrived.

F. Spence

JUL 12 1920

7

THE LARGEST ESKIMOS CHURCH IN THE WORLD

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BARROW, ALASKA

THE FARTHEST NORTH OF ANY CHURCH IN NORTH AMERICA

REV. F. H. SPENCE, M.D.
IN CHARGE

BARROW, ALASKA

February 27, 1920.

John A. Marquis, D. D.
New York, N. Y.
156 Fifth Ave.

My dear Dr. Marquis:-

I hope I am not imposing upon you by writing so many letters to you on the strength of only having received one letter from you. These words in your letter have brought a great hope to us for this needy people. "The thing I was especially anxious to get to Barrow for was to make a plea to the government for a hospital, its erection and management. I will make the plea at any rate. If the government should not be willing to undertake it, then you can count on our Board, or the Woman's Board erecting it, at any rate." So we are holding on to that promise and to you.

Because of that we feel we ought to keep you informed of conditions here. Enclosed you will find a copy of our letter to the Board in this mail. The third and fourth lines are, "instructions received from Dr. Condit were surely explicit enough. We received something like two hundred letters in the Christmas mail." Did not discover my typewriter had gone wrong until the sixth line. If you had lived here as we have for nearly five years and see the conditions and the needs, I am sure you would not leave any stone unturned that would bring about relief to this worthy people.

Can not remember whether we sent you a picture from which the heading of this letter was made. If not would be pleased to send one as we have some now.

Individuals can be better recognized in the picture than in the letter head. Our February mail has not yet arrived owing to hard snows and changeable winds and bad trails. This will go out on our last winter mail, the first of March.

If the mail does not come before that we shall not be able to answer our mail until the ships come in August, if they come. With a sincere desire to be helpful to these people and this work,

Cordially,

F. H. Spence

SEP 21 1920

"Copy"

Barrow, Alaska,

July
Fifteen

1 9 2 0

John Dixon, D. D.
New York, N. Y.
156 Fifth Ave.

My dear Dr. Dixon:-

Your letter of November 15th reached us in the April mail, the last until the boats come, so we have not been able to answer it until then. We take this the first opportunity to thank you and through you the Board for the increase in our salaries, dating from last October. You who live outside know something of the increased cost of living, but we who are in the far north are at the mercy of the trader who only needs a hint of prices soaring to put them sky high. Surely we are grateful for this help in our hour of need.

We are enclosing Statistical Report filled out as best we can. It will not reach you I fear in time to be of any use and will I know be unsatisfactory. The only record kept here is that of the Sunday School except the Church Record. We have two church services here on Sunday and one at the Point. We also have Sunday School and Senior Endeavor each Sunday, both of which are under the care of Mrs. Spence. We have prayer meeting every Wednesday night and Mrs. Spence has Intermediate and Junior Endeavor every Wednesday afternoon. All of these are attended by all the people that are in the village except the sick. The sick are visited every Friday and Sunday by committees regularly appointed. We tried last winter to give Money the Acid Test to these people on five different occasions, but we had to simplify it so much in order that they might understand it, and even then I fear it went over their heads.

When we came here we began the Bible at Genesis on Sunday mornings, the book of Acts on Sunday evenings and the Gospels on Wednesday nights. We have reached First Kings, finished the Gospels and will finish Revelations in three weeks. These people can not understand the Bible as written, as many of the words are beyond their comprehension so it has to be put in primer words. We have not confined ourselves exclusively to this schedule as we often speak on special subjects as the time or occasion call for, as at Christmas, Easter, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving, etc.

We also take up special subjects as occasion arises. We have not written on the blank space in the Statistical Report but in this letter instead as there was not room there to say all we had in mind.

Your letter of December 13th in reguard to the matter of vacations for missionaries in Alaska came also in the April mail. We do not understand whether it is

intended as a notice that we are to have a vacation this year or not. When we received it we did not want to look on it in that light but now we feel it is almost imperative we should go out this summer. The year has been the hardest one since we came in many ways. We do not refer to the lack of coal. All the services have been kept up in the church with little or no fire, most of the time none at all, but they were all attended by all that were in the village. The thermometer was most of the time at or near twenty five below zero and sometimes lower. The breath of the people would form a white vapor in the church. We had on two ottegas and mittens while talking. Had only one fire at the mission all winter and the one room was kitchen, dining room, bed room, living room, office room, drug room, surgery, and dispensary.

These however are only minor difficulties and are easily endured, it is in the spiritual work where the strain lies. This mission needs the prayers of all good people that it may be lifted out of darkness into light.

Because of some of the things we have been through this year the health of Mrs. Spence and myself is very much impaired. The last of May I suffered from what at the time I supposed was a slight attack of snow blindness in my right eye but found it was some serious trouble and that I had a much more serious condition in the left eye. Mrs. Spence is needing the care of an oculist and a dentist so we are hoping the way will open for our going out.

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I believe it would do them good spiritually to give each year to the support of the church, but I believe some thing should be done first to right some of the wrongs under which they are laboring. Both the above collections come to $145.25. I am keeping the money here so you will please take it out of our salary. In addition to the above there was one very poor fox skin. I could get but $7.00 for it here so am sending it to you.

Cordially F. H. Spence

We have the Sunday question here the same as you do on the outside and for the same reason, the Almighty Dollar and to this is added here at least Politics with a large P, but for that matter the Almighty Dollar is behind Politics also.

Ever since the white man came to this north land he has exploited the native. He began by ravaging their women, transmitting through them a disease far more dreadful in its results to posterity than tuberculosis, both being intensified and much harder to cure when combined. Many have been and are the women with loathsome sores, far too many are the cases of still-births, far too many are the number of incompetents. The only person frozen to death in the five years we have been here was the wife of one of these incompetents, because he did not know enough to care for her. The man who froze his feet and died two years ago was an incompetent. The man who froze his feet last winter was an incompetent and he would have frozen to death had not the people searched for and found him. There are altogether too many incompetent children growing up. One child born this year was without the top of his head. One woman has had two children both of them losing their mind before they were a year old. Many women have two, three and four miscarriages before they have a live child. One of our young men had a disease of the cornea due to syphilis inherited from his ancestors, and had there been no medical help here, he would today be blind. As it was it took a year of constant watching to save his sight. There are too many blind people here for the number of inhabitants. One little girl now, only about four years old is afflicted with the same trouble and liable to lose her sight. One boy at the Point is paralized and helpless from the same cause. When you see all these things it makes your heart ache and I can not tell it all.

Not only are these people ruined in body but they are ruined financially and are kept in debt so deeply that they are practically slaves. As if it was not enough to ruin them physically and financially, the power of the Almighty Dollar in the hands of the trader and politician would compell them to work seven days in the week. Whaling is a gamble, if a large whale is caught it means large money in bone, if no large whale is caught it is money out. But gambling to get rich is no new thing in this world.

A year ago this spring the first whale was caught on Sunday. We had taught the Ten Commandments and had preached more than once on the Fourth Commandment. We knew we would be opposing two powerful interests if we took it up, but we decided we would rather go out or be sent out than be missionaries of a church that habitually broke the Sabbath. Accordingly we called a meeting of the Session and went over the ground carefully giving them a synopsis of the sermon we preached as soon as the whalers were all in. While we were talking to them we said, "You had better lock up the church or burn it down if you are going to break the Sabbath habitually." That proved to be an unfortunate remark. One of the elders is hard of hearing and reported we said, "I will lock any one out of the church who whales on Sunday" and this was distorted to "I will lock up the church if you whale on Sunday." Learned of the garbled version in a day or so, corrected it and told the session to correct it. It is difficult to convey

to a primitive people ideas except in crude language. A better form of words might have been chosen.

As the result of the sermon no more whales were caught on Sunday, but thirteen whales were caught, the largest number since we came here. However only one or two were of good size, there was however an abundance of meat and blubber. This spring a united effort was made to break down the Sabbath, the representatives of the government going so far as to tell the people "The government wants you to whale on Sunday from the President down." No whales have been caught ~~on Sunday~~ during the spring whaling except one very small one and a little calf and those not on Sunday, they could not catch them if they wanted to. This was due to ice conditions. Since the attempt to break down the Sabbath I talked with some of my elders and trustees and asked them if they thought it necessary to work seven days in the week to provide food and fuel for the people. Their reply was, "not if they are not lazy." I talked with one of our spiritual men and he said, "We do not think it right to whale on Sunday and we do not want to but if we do not obey the boss(trader)we will get into trouble." Another man who was a herder said, "we have to do as the head man says." I asked one of our bright young men if they would have to hunt seals seven days in the week in order to get enough food and blubber and he said, "no, if you are not lazy." Seal can be caught here the year around, they bring in one, five, ten and twenty at a time. This "menace" about food and fuel is explained by a word much used during the war "camouflage". There may be some scarcity of food and fuel the coming winter, depending largely on how much the people exercise themselves during the summer.

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A people of that description are capable of being educated to self government. In the World's Work for Dec. 1919 in an article entitled "A Cure for Bolshevism which says,"Fundamentally our Government is an instrument by which a vigorous people will look after their own interests. It did not include machinery paternally grinding groups who prefer to be managed rather than to manage themselves." In the same magazine is an article"As Others See Us," which says,"The typical American is simple,even naive at times,and his ideals too are simple and primitive,not warped by a life weary civilization. They rest on those elemental truths upon which all morality must again and again be rebuilt-the right of the individual,the freedom of the individual,for all persons and all nations whether great or small. This passion for freedom is what spells "Democracy" to an American." Boss rule and exploitation is is an anomaly and an anachronism in the year 1920 in the United States of America.,the home of "Democracy."

It would not be wise to give these people self government until they are taught,but a beginning should be made at once. They are surely as worthy of effort to lift up as the black people of the south were. Let us wake up to our responsibility.

Third. It is not good for this mission. What has been already said would show it if the past history had not emphasized it.

This government when founded separated church and state and they should remain so. To unite them is and always will be to the disadvantage of the church at least in this part of the world.

SPECIAL WORK.

July 20, 1920.

Rev. Frank H. Spence, M. D.,
Barrow, Alaska.

Dear Dr. Spence:

Dr. Dixon has called my attention to the fact that you have been writing Englewood Church and have secured no reply. I have gone over the records and find that under a previous pastorate Englewood Church thought of considering you as a "special" and I believe did do so. That was, however, dropped when the new man came in.

Then the Tioga Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia, Rev. Robert R. Littell, D. D., 1531 Tioga Street, asked for a recommendation and I suggested your name among others which he took and I am this day in receipt of a sum of money from that church, a part of which is to apply on your salary. I would therefore greatly appreciate it if you would write me a letter which I could send to the Tioga Church as coming from you, after which I would be very glad to have you correspond with the church direct.

I do not see why a letter, advising you of this assignment, has not gone forward prior to this and I think it must, although it may not have reached you.

The Tioga Church is one of the leading churches of Philadelphia and Dr. Littell is a most active and aggressive man. I very much want you to be associated with him and desire that he shall have the benefit of your experience.

I suppose Dr. Condit has posted all you men upon the entire situation here in New York so that it is unnecessary for me to say more than that Dr. Marquis is now on his vacation and we hope is rapidly recovering his health. Mrs. Marquis we learn is also improving. You may not know that she was seriously ill with pneumonia during the spring months.

Dr. Dixon, the standby of us all, is as usual on the job. The Home Board would really not be the Home Board if he were not going about helping us keep things in shape, calling us down now and then and poking us up as the necessities seem to demand.

I am glad to advise you that the hospital building, which has given us so much trouble, is really on its way to Alaska. I trust it will reach its destination and become a source of great blessing to the afflicted ones of that great new commonwealth. You see I have been

talking with Rev. S. Hall Young, D. D., so I cannot speak of Alaska without using superlatives. This reminds me that Dr. Young starts for Alaska within a few days. He is at last a happy man and is buying moving picture machines and all the necessities for the survey he intends to make. We all feel that it is a rather strenuous undertaking for a man of his years but recognize that he would rather die in Alaska than live in New York.

With all good wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours

Financial Secretary.

WRP:MEL.

The Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church

IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 156 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

REPORT OF MISSIONARY FOR QUARTER ENDING MARCH 31ST 19[illegible]

Please forward this report to the Secretary promptly after the date mentioned.

Name of Missionary F. H. Spence

Name of Presbytery Yukon

P. O. Address Barrow Alaska

STATISTICAL REPORT

In the *Statistical Report*, under "Names of Churches and Stations," please write the name of each preaching place, following each in the spaces on the same line with information as to the quarter's work.

NAMES OF CHURCHES AND STATIONS	PREACHING SERVICES				OTHER SERVICES				MONTHLY MEETINGS FOR MISSIONARY STUDY AND PRAYER		Number of Pastoral Calls	MEMBERS RECEIVED		BAPTISMS	
	SABBATH		MID-WEEK		SABBATH		MID-WEEK		SUBJECTS	Ave. Att.		On Ex.	On Cer.	Adult	Infant
	No.	Ave. Att.	No.	Ave. Att.	No.	Ave. Att.	No.	Ave. Att.							
Barrow	2	131	1	131	2	131									
Pt Barrow	1	42	1	42											

GENERAL REPORT

In the *General Report*, please give some details of the various departments of the work, with its trials and encouragements, and any facts or incidents that will inform the Board as to the field, or interest the Home Mission givers throughout the Church at large. **Both sides of this sheet may be used.**

SEP 21 1921

The Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church

IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 156 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

REPORT OF MISSIONARY FOR QUARTER ENDING DECEMBER 31ST 1921

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Name of Presbytery Yukon

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	Sabbath		Mid-Week		Sabbath		Mid-Week		Subjects	Ave. Att.		On Ex.	On Cer.	Adult	Infant
	No.	Ave. Att.	No.	Ave. Att.	No.	Ave. Att.	No.	Ave. Att.							
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Barrow, Alaska,

July
Fifteen

1 9 2 0

John Dixon, D. D.
New York, N. Y.
156 Fifth Ave.

My dear Dr. Dixon:-

Your letter of November 15th reached us in the April mail, the last until the boats come, so we have not been able to answer it until then. We take this the first opportunity to thank you and through you the Board for the increase in our salaries, dating from last October. You who live outside know something of the increased cost of living, but we who are in the far north are at the mercy of the trader who only needs a hint of prices soaring to put them sky high. Surely we are grateful for this help in our hour of need.

We are enclosing Statistical Report filled out as best we can. It will not reach you I fear in time to be of any use and will I know be unsatisfactory. The only record kept here is that of the Sunday School except the Church Record. We have two church services here on Sunday and one at the Point. We also have Sunday School and Senior Endeavor each Sunday, both of which are under the care of Mrs. Spence. We have prayer meeting every Wednesday night and Mrs. Spence has Intermediate and Junior Endeavor every Wednesday afternoon. All of these are attended by all the people that are in the village except the sick. The sick are visited every Friday and Sunday by committees regularly appointed. We tried last winter to give Money the Acid Test to these people on five different occasions, but we had to simplify it so much in order that they might understand it, and even then I fear it went over their heads.

When we came here we began the Bible at Genesis on Sunday mornings, the book of Acts on Sunday evenings and the Gospels on Wednesday nights. We have reached First Kings, finished the Gospels and will finish Revelations in three weeks. These people can not understand the Bible as written, as many of the words are beyond their comprehension so it has to be put in primer words. We have not confined curselves exclusively to this schedule as we often speak on special subjects as the time or occasion call for, as at Christmas, Easter, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving, etc.

We also take up special subjects as occasion arises. We have not written on the blank space in the Statistical Report but in this letter instead as there was not room there to say all we had in mind.

Your letter of December 13th in reguard to the matter of vacations for missionaries in Alaska came also in the April mail. We do not understand whether it is

intended as a notice that we are to have a vacation this year or not. When we received it we did not want to look on it in that light but now we feel it is almost imperative we should go out this summer. The year has been the hardest one since we came in many ways. We do not refer to the lack of coal. All the services have been kept up in the church with little or no fire, most of the time none at all, but they were all attended by all that were in the village. The thermometer was most of the time at or near twenty five below zero and sometimes lower. The breath of the people would form a white vapor in the church. We had on two attegas and mittens while talking. Had only one fire at the mission all winter and the one room was kitchen, dining room, bed room, living room, office room, drug room, surgery, and dispensary.

These however are only minor difficulties and are easily endured, it is in the spiritual work where the strain lies. This mission needs the prayers of all good people that it may be lifted out of darkness into light.

Because of some of the things we have been through this year the health of Mrs. Spence and myself is very much impaired. The last of May I suffered from what at the time I supposed was a slight attack of snow blindness in my right eye but found it was some serious trouble and that I had a much more serious condition in the left eye. Mrs. Spence is needing the care of an oculist and a dentist so we are hoping the way will open for our going out.

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SEP 21 1926

The Largest Eskimos Church In the World

Presbyterian Church, Barrow, Alaska

The Farthest North Of Any Church in North America

Rev. F. H. Spence, M.D.
In Charge

Barrow, Alaska

August 19, 1920.

Rev. John Dixon, D. D.

New York, N. Y.

156 Fifth Ave.

My dear Dr. Dixon:-

On the 17th of August the"Herman" brought to us Miss May Olive Jordon,a trained nurse and Mr. and Mrs. Brown of Seattle, Wash.,Mr. Brown coming as you know to erect the new hospital. I know you will be glad to learn of their safe arrival. We are looking for the arrival of the "Fox" and"Olga" daily.

I think I understand better since receiving your letter the internal arrangements of the Board of Home Missions in the New York office but I have already written the principal part of my letter this time to yourself and so I am almost compelled for lack of time to leave it so. We received a letter from Mr. Banks and we will try to answer that before the mail goes.

We want to thank you for your very kind words of appreciation. I think you who are in the midst of every thing can not fully appreciate how much good a little encouragement does to people way out on the edge of things.

We are delighted that at last we are to meet Dr. Condit face to face. We are looking for the "Bear" any day now and expect to meet him when it arrives.

Have no word as yet from Dr. Marquis but hope we may when the "Bear" comes. Will write the news later if there is time after the ships arrive.

Cordially,

F. H. Spence

C O P Y

Barrow, Alaska,

September 24, 1920.

Presbyterian Board of Home Missions,

New York City, N. Y.

Gentlemen:

It is with deepest regret that I witness the departure of Dr. and Mrs. Spence and Miss Jordan, but under existing conditions here it is the only safe and sane thing that they can do. The health of both the Dr. and his wife is very poorly, besides the worries and trials of fighting an up hill fight for the past three years has been very hard on them both.

They can well be proud of their work here, and the natives are going to miss them sorely. The Dr. was always ready to attend them day or night. I have seen the Dr. go to the Point, a distance of twelve miles, in weather that I wouldn't want to travel in and I am an experienced dog-driver used to all kinds of weather, and he would do this twice a week, month after month. Why? Because he was conscientiously doing his duty.

I have written these few lines that you may know that we have fully appreciated the Doctor's services, and as a Doctor as well as in the church he will be sadly missed this coming year.

Yours truly,

(signed) Harry W. Bloomfield,

Agent of C. S. W. & T. Co.

OCT 25 1920

Please reply to this letter — Jack

56 S. Catherine St.
Mobile, Alabama
Oct. 21, 1920.

Rev. John A. Marquis, D. D.
New York City.

My dear Dr. Marquis,

In both the Continent and the New Era Magazine we were very glad to note that Dr. Condit of Alaska was able to reach Barrow during the summer. We greatly sympathized with Dr. and Mrs. Spence's disappointment that you were prevented from reaching them last year.

The Spences are warm friends of ours with whom we have corresponded ever since they left California. But, as you know, the letters are tantalizingly slow in traveling. The last we received were written before Dr. Condit's arrival. If it is not giving you too much trouble we would greatly appreciate the later news you may have received since Dr. Condit's return.

We are greatly interested in Dr. Spence and his wife and in their work---especially the new hospital. We were formerly neighbors and know how fine they are---splendid staunch Christians, with the cheerful courage and vigor of youth, the enduring patience and wisdom of years in their consecration to the Cause of the Master.

We would particularly like to know if they are well, especially about their eyes, which were giving them trouble when we last heard. Also did sufficient coal reach the station this year to keep their home comfortable , the church and the new hospital too? We do rejoice with you and with them that the doctor's dream of a hospital is being fulfilled. Any other news of the Spences will be most welcome.

Thanking you in advance for your kindness and courtesy, I am
Yours sincerely

(Mrs. Edward) Emma V. Berger.

October 28, 1920.

Mrs. Edward Berger,
56 South CatherineStreet,
Mobile, Ala.

My dear Mrs. Berger:-

My Father has asked me to reply to your letter of October 21, concerning Dr. and Mrs. Spence. We have not heard directly from Dr. Spence since Dr. Condit's visit. The U. S. S. Bear was only there a few hours so all mail brought out was what had been previously written. Dr. Condit was very pleased with the prospects for the new hospital, and while there they selected the site. A carpenter with an assistant will be there this winter to put up the building. Miss Jordan, the nurse for the hospital, is also with them this winter.

In regard to the health of Dr. Spence and his wife; they are still having trouble with their eyes and Dr. Condit feels strongly that they must come out next summer. The Board is looking now for a younger doctor to go out and this time and relieve the Spences. Their devotion to the work and anxiety to see the hospital actually in operation made Dr. and Mrs. Spence decide to remain this winter.

All the supplies sent to Barrow got there this year, including the freight that had to be left at Point Hope in August 1919. The Board sent to Barrow not only coal from Seattle, but a stop was made at Wainwright and some of that coal was sacked and taken along to supplement the supply.

Cordially yours,

SM/MFM

October 29, 1920.

Dr. F. H. Spence,
Point Barrow,
Alaska.

My dear Dr. Spence:

A notice appeared in the Continent a week or so ago to the effect that Mr. Hide was sent to Point Barrow by our Board to manage the hospital. I have written him as per the enclosed letter correcting this impression and stating as clearly as I can that he is entirely under your orders to be dismissed whenever you think his usefulness is at an end.

Wishing you again all the joy of the holiday season, which may be past by the time this letter reaches you, I am

Very sincerely yours,

JAM:ES

November 5, 1920.

Rev. F. H. Spence, M.D.,

Barrow, Alaska.

My dear Dr. Spence:-

I know that you are receiving quite a number of letters from this building, or, to speak more carefully, I know that they are being sent to you, but I assume that in your far-away home you are not unwilling to receive another even although it should bring you no news and be of no practical service to you.

First of all, let me say to you that we have begun our search for a medical missionary to take your place while you come out on your vacation next summer. I do not forget the many and varied efforts that we put forth to secure such a man before we found you and the long waiting. I humbly pray that we may be quickly guided to the right man to relieve you.

The entire Church as well as his own denomination were much shocked to learn of the death of Archdeacon Stuck. I had the pleasure of meeting him and having a long talk with him. What a warm-hearted, broad-minded man he was! He spoke in most glowing terms of you and of your work at Point Barrow, urging upon us the importance of obtaining the hospital. As you know, Dr. Marquis has succeeded in securing it and I assume that by this time it is erected and that you are at work in it. We were a little disturbed here recently over the paragraph in the Continent, the Presbyterian paper published in this city, which spoke of Mr. Eide as having some supervisory position in relation to our work at the hospital at Point Barrow. Dr. Marquis has written you and written Mr. Eide in regard to the matter; that he is entirely under your direction and you have full responsibility

for retaining him or relieving him as your judgment and the necessities of the work may seem to you to require.

Our financial condition as a Board was probably never worse than it is now. Whether or not we shall end the fiscal year, March thirty-first, in any better condition than our fears now suggest must await the coming of that day.

We have just passed through the national election and the Republican party under the leadership of Senator Harding and Governor Coolidge has obtained a great victory. Let us hope that it is the ordering of a Divine Providence which will secure not only the material and moral welfare of our nation, but make it count also for the hastening of the coming of the Kingdom of God and the bringing in of the latter day glory.

With warmest personal regards to yourself and Mrs. Spence, and earnest prayers that you may be in the keeping of Him who never slumbers nor sleeps, I am,

Cordially yours,

JD/I.

OV 18 1920 11/23/20

(Nov.?)

San Francisco, Cal. Sept.12,1920.

Dr. John Dixon,

New York, N. Y.

My dear Dr. Dixon:-

Enclosed you will find copies of letters that are self explanatory. I also enclose a picture of the new hospital building taken before we came away.

We want to take this opportunity of again thanking you for the many kind words you wrote us while we were on the field. No one who has not lived in an isolated position can realize how far words of appreciation go to encourage and help the workers.

Cordially,

F. A. Spence

NOV 16 1971

Barrow, Alaska.
September
Twenty-sixth
1 9 5 0 .

Elders, Trustees, Members,
Barrow Presbyterian Church.
Dearly Beloved:-

Mrs. Spence and myself are leaving you at this time, first because of our health. Mrs. Spence is having trouble both with her eyes and teeth.

Last May I found I had serious trouble with both my eyes. We are leaving, second, because we think we can be of more help to you outside this year. May the Lord keep you faithful to Him,

Your fellow workers,

Mrs. J. G. Spence
Dr. W. R. Spence.

NOV 18 1920

September
Eleven
1920.

Mr. Arthur Hide,
Barrow, Alaska.

My dear Mr. Hide:-

For various reasons, chiefly that of the health of Mrs. Spence and myself, it is imperative that we leave Barrow at this time.

In the mean time until the Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. shall send other medical and religious workers to take our places, I commission you and Mrs. Hide to carry on as much of this work as you are able to do.

You are still under Mr. Brown and hence most of your week day time must necessarily be spent in his service.

This means that you are temporarily the mission representatives until others are sent in or you hear from the Board in New York.

Cordially, F. H. Spence

NOV 18 1920

San Francisco, Cal.
November 11, 192[illegible].

Mr. Varian Banks, Asst. Treasurer,
New York, N. Y.
156 Fifth Ave.

My dear Mr. Banks:-

Mrs. Spence and myself arrived in San Francisco On the Gas Steamer "Herman" day before yesterday having sailed from Barrow the twenty sixth of September. Enclosed you will find copies of letters written by us on leaving to Mr. Arthur Tide and to the Elders, Trustees and Members of the Barrow Presbyterian Church, which are self explanatory. Truth compells me to admit the reasons given were not the only ones or the final ones that decided us to come out at this time. We desired to remain until next summer, first because we love to work with the Eskimos of Barrow, they are a lovable people deserving of better things. Second they need a spiritual leader, third they need a doctor, fourth, we had asked to remain last year before we knew what the year had in store for us and wished to stay until we could be properly relieved, and lastly we needed to remain financially.

Captain C.F. Peterkx son of the "Herman" was untiring in his kindness during the six weeks kx trip and has refused to receive any compensation for our passage notwithstanding much urging. This is partly due to some technicality in reguard to carrying passengers. It happens that in 190[illegible], 190[illegible] and 191[illegible] we took care of his little son for three years while he wasx two, three x and four years of agex in the Jesse Lee Home at Unalaska, Alaska.

He is now a young man of sixteen an efficient helper to kx his father. We were fortunate in persuading his father to give him an opportunity to advance his education next year and it has occurred to us it would be a good thing for your Board to send the young man Teddy Peterson (correct to Theodore Pedersen Jr.) care of H. Liebes Co. 167 Post St. San Francisco, Cal. a draft for say $250.00 as compensation for our trip out and to help the boy. I think Captain Pederson plans to xxx call on your Board in New York sometime in the near future.

You doubtless know before this of the safe arrival of both the "Fox" and the "Olga" with lumber and equipment. The outside coal was reported at thirty tons but I am sure fell short, just how much I do not know. Only twenty five tons of coal came from Wainwright. I enclose a picture of the hospital building taken Sept. 19 . You have doubtless received better and later pictures.

In the inventory last year was 15,000 shingles. Mr. Brower asked me to let him have them and he would replace them when the "Fox" came or pay for them in cash. When we came to count them out we found there were eighty three bundles, or over 2[illegible],000. We used the 20,000 Also a keg of shinglex nails and a few bundles of building paper.

The above is there to the credit of the Board.

You will remember you allowed me $100.00 as a "Sick Fund". Something like half of that was used before we came away. A bill will be rendered by the Cape Smythe Whaling and Trading Co. Mr. Brower's company.

We expect to go to Los Angeles in a few days. Will you write me there as soon as you receive this saying what, if anything your Board may want of us during the coming year. We will be under the necessity of making our plans for the coming year soon. Address us at 535 North Ave. 66. With many thanks for all the kindnesses we have received from your Board,

Cordially,

F. A. Spence

November 23, 1920.

Rev. F. H. Spence, M.D.,
505 North Ave., 65,
Los Angeles, Cal.

My dear Dr. Spence:-

Your recent favor from San Francisco has been received. It came to us not only as a great surprise, but as a deep disappointment that you had withdrawn from Point Barrow. True, a rumor reached us that you and Miss Jordan were leaving Point Barrow, but we were slow to believe it. We knew that you had waited long and pleaded earnestly for a hospital there and now that your prayer was at last being answered, we were sure that you would stay until it was completed, equipped and started on its mission of mercy.

We are confident that there is some serious reason, or reasons, why you have so suddenly given up the work and it is the desire of the Executive Council that you should write us very fully in regard to the entire situation there. We ask this for the following reasons:-

First,- if it shall be deemed wise to ask you to return and take up your work there next summer, it is necessary for us that we should know all the facts which have led you to withdraw from Point Barrow.

Second,- if you are not to return and another medical missionary is to be secured, it is due him that he should be sufficiently informed with regard to Point Barrow that when he arrives there he will not have the right to think that he has been misled.

Third,- it is possible, and indeed probable, that it will be necessary for us to confer with the Government in regard to the people of Point Barrow and their needs. To do this we must know exactly what those needs are from the standpoint both of education and religion and of sanitary conditions.

Hoping that your return to California has been of immediate and material advantage to both Mrs. Spence and yourself, and assuring you of our grateful and lasting appreciation of your splendid missionary service in the far North, I am, as ever,

Cordially yours,

JD/I.

DEC 7 1920

602 Redfield Av.

Los Angeles, Calif., Dec. 1, 1921.

Dear Dr. Marquis:-

We are greatly delighted to have Dr. and Mrs. Spence as our guests in our home here in Los Angeles. They arrived from Barrow, Alaska, recently and are full of news from that far off Northland, which is now dressed in its nubian robe for another two months.

It was a complete surprise to us that they came out this year, but upon learning the details of existing conditions, it would have been a greater wonder had they remained longer than it was barely necessary for them to make their exit.

There is no doubt, to my mind, the future welfare of your work has reached a most critical stage and I would suggest that you meet and talk with Dr. Spence face to face, who alone can acquaint you with the status of the situation at Barrow.

Dr. Spence is too modest a christian gentleman to write you what you ought to know but I feel you would be fully prepared to meet the situation most intelligently after having gotten the facts from the Dr. and Mrs. Spence.

Mrs. VanValin and I, as well as Dr. and Mrs. S Spence, have the best interests of the Eskimo at heart and for their welfare and the sake of the future missionaries you send to Barrow, I write you at this time.

I found the negatives which I mentioned to you of the Doctor and intended enclosing it in this letter but it has been mislaid again during our moving. Will forward it to you as soon as I find it again. Have some fine motion pictures of Barrow Mission of which I had a print made recently.

Sincerely yours and His,

W. B. VanValin

Dr. John Marquis,

New York, N.Y.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
THIRD AND DATE STREETS
SAN DIEGO, CALIF.

December 30, 1920.

Rev. W. P. Shriver, D.D.,
1425 Locust St.,
Pasadena, California.

Dear Doctor Shriver:-

Permit by introductory paragraph the heartiest season's greetings, and a note of congratulation in view of the fine reports which I get of your work at Occidental College. I am happy indeed for you and for the school.

I write this letter in reference to Dr. and Mrs. Spence, whom you know as having done a rarely splendid piece of work at Point Barrow, Alaska, and who will visit you soon in reference to the perpetuating of this work by the hearty co-operation of the churches. Dr. and Mrs. Spence are the genuine kind. Dr. Spence gives a vivid, realistic, heart-stirring story. He has the eloquence of simplicity, and makes the picture of life amongst the Eskimos very real and very appealing to the people. He told the story of their life there, and warmed the hearts of our people very completely. Mrs. Spence shares with him absolutely in interest, and also would present the work to the womens' societies, in a real worth while way.

It is my impression that Dr. and Mrs. Spence could be used in our churches very profitably in reference to this important work. I feel certain that they would do it most gladly, for their hearts are centered on the mission in Alaska, and their every prayer and effort would be to make it succeed on a big basis.

With good wishes for the New Year, and God's blessings on your work, I am,

Most cordially yours,

Edgar Evans

SE/ac

JAN 14 1921

BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
156 FIFTH AVENUE
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ROBERT S. DONALDSON, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

101 North Hill Ave., Pasadena
January 8, 1921

My dear Dr. Marquis:

Thursday afternoon, the 6th inst., I spent three hours with Dr. and Mrs. Spence seeking sympathetically to gather up their story of Point Barrow.

I was, in the first place, greatly impressed by their heroism, - Dr. Spence a frail little man past sixty years of age, she a gentle woman of charm and refinement, giving themselves for more than five years to this distant and dreary post and submitting themselves to living conditions and hardships which we younger men would be reluctant indeed to accept.

From letters I was privileged to read, from Mr. Richardson, formerly the government teacher at Barrow, James E. Gregg, teacher at Wainwright, Arch-deacon Stuck and others, it was clear that Dr. and Mrs. Spence had gained the confidence of all with whom they had met in that far north country. A particularly fine tribute was paid him by Arch-deacon Stuck in his "A WINTER CIRCUIT OF OUR ARTIC COAST," just published by Scribner's, 1920, pp.217. If you have not seen this book, I would suggest your getting it.

Dr. and Mrs. Spence left Point Barrow September 26th and arrived at San Francisco November 8th, a trip of six weeks, more than 5,000 miles, on a whaler. When they left, the hospital building was well under way, tho not being erected according to the plans sent. Mr. Brown, the contractor remained to carry on the work. Mr. Arthur Eide and his wife, who came to assist Dr. Spence, had arrived on the FOX from Seattle.

After hearing Dr. Spence's story and asking many questions, the situation which led to their leaving Point Barrow in September is briefly as follows. I have tried to reflect his own attitude in so far as possible.

1. The exacting and exhausting conditions of life in that far north country; the long cold winter, with three months only of open weather; eight or ten white folk only at the post, and most of these not the sort to furnish congenial fellowship. The difficulty of communication. As complete a sort of ISOLATION as one might imagine. And this Dr. and Mrs. Spence, late in life, had stood for five years.

2. The lack of fuel and the constant uncertainty as to whether the winter's supply was to be assured or not. The winter temperature is about 25 degrees below zero. To maintain church and manse 40 tons of coal is required. With the hospital, 40 tons additional required.

With this demand in mind, I think I correctly report the record of the winters as follows:

FIRST WINTER: 40 tons state coal.

SECOND WINTER: Home Board sent 30 tons. Dr. Spence exacted and took off 10 tons additional.

THIRD WINTER: No coal arrived.

FOURTH WINTER: 25 tons Wainwright (native) coal. Would not burn in house range.

FIFTH WINTER: No coal arrived. Dr. Spence secured 103 sacks native coal by whale boat, sixty miles, and improvised fuel from blubber and a native oil lake.

SIXTH WINTER (This): Home Board allowed 60 tons Wainwright coal and 30 tons outside coal, designing this as a two year supply. Only 25 tons Wainwright coal delivered, and while 30 tons outside coal were billed, only about 20 actually delivered. This would have assured fuel for this winter.

Last winter the Spence's were required to live in one room which had to serve also as dispensary. There also, with a sheet stretched across one end of the room to give as much privacy as possible, a baby was born to Mrs. Gregg, wife of the teacher at Wainwright.

3. A third thing, it was clear to me, entered into a trying situation, the lack of close contact with the Board at the home base. In recent years there has been confusion as to who was really back of the Point Barrow work, since Dr. Dixon, Mr. Banks, Dr. Condit, all appear, and in this last year Mr. Gould, as I understand, operated for the Board in the matter of the hospital and the securing and sending of Mr. Eide, tho Dr. Spence did not seem to know who was responsible for Mr. Eide.

A year would elapse without communication from the Board. When Dr. Condit came last summer he had eight hours only at Point Barrow, and most of that time was spent in photographing. Dr. Spence seemed to feel it was with great difficulty he could get his ideas of the work and its requirements across to the Board. In all this I may not do justice to the situation nor to Dr. Spence, for there was no spirit of complaint on his part. I felt I was talking to a man who had a hard and difficult mission far from the home base, and who felt the want of close, constant and sympathetic understanding and backing.

4. The arrival last summer of Mr. Brown, the contractor, and Mr. Eide, the assistant, both of whom were not the cooperating sort. They introduced a personal difficulty, which to these two tired and worn people proved "the last straw".

Brown, a good mechanic, arrived without his plans, and began the hospital on his own lay-out. The plans later arrived with Mr. Eide. Dr. Spence was not furnished a copy. Brown was not disposed to receive suggestions from the doctor.

Eide, in the judgment of Dr. and Mrs. Spence, is not fitted to be a missionary, and especially at such a remote station where only the highest traits, the finest spirit and purpose are required. I think Dr. Condit shares in this judgment. Eide, Dr. Spence says, is ignorant, lacks tact, is an extreme egotist, and did not cooperate. It would appear that he was a government teacher at one time at the Djiomede (?) Islands, and was run out by thenatives.

I think, now, I have summarized the items which Dr. Spence developed in his long conversation. He spoke with feeling, as a man tired, and always with reticence to go into personal matters especially as they bore on others.

All of these things taken together might not seem to us at this distance and in our own comfortable positions, to be sufficient to warrant Dr. and Mrs. Spence leaving Point Barrow in September, and just as the hospital was under way. A younger, fresh and stronger man might have fought them through. The fight, after five years of arduous service, was about out of these good people. I do not think anyone would have any spirit to criticize them for their action, much as we might wish the outcome could ~~xxxxxxxx~~ have been otherwise.

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I venture now to make the following suggestions:

1. While Dr. Spence would naturally like to see you, I do not think the trip east required, until you are rounding up the new outfit. Then I think the new doctor would want an interview with Dr. Spence. His experience ought to be capitalized.

2. Meanwhile, Dr. Spence should be assigned to the Education Dept. here on the coast under Dr. Stevens direction. They are anxious to speak in behalf of the work. I enclose a letter which has just come to me from Dr. Silas Evans, who warmly commends the Spences and their presentation. Eastman should get out word to Dr. Stevens on this, if the Council approves.

3. The Board should very definitely locate responsibility for this Point Barrow Mission in some one office or person, with immediate and full responsibility for recruiting the new staff, following thru the business arrangements as to coal, supplies, etc. and maintaining close and intimate contact with the missionaries. It will take a lot of time and attention on some one's part. The authority should not be divided.

4. The new staff should be recruited now. They could go up in June. Dr. Spence thinks the physician should be a good surgeon and have experience, particularly, in eye work. A nurse is required. An assistant for missionarywork. With the hospital on his hands, the doctor could not also care for the church work. There should be nodivided authority. This group should know each other before leaving and be of a cooperative sort.

In this connection, Eide should be withdrawn.

5. The fuel situation should again be taken in hand. Dr. Spence has all along urged that a two years' supply be landed at Point Barrow. The Board appears finally to have accepted this in principle, but has not been able to carry the plan thru, as witness this last summer when only 25 tons Wainwright coal was delivered and 20 actually (30 billed) of outside coal. This will last one winter only. A two year supply must be guaranteed next summer.

In this connection, Dr. Spence has continuously urged upon the Board, that the only sure way of getting this supply is through H. Liebes & Co. of San Francisco, traders, who have their own boast and who would deliver coal to Point Barrow without lighterage. He thinks the freight from San Francisco would be $50. per ton, and with coal at about $15 per ton,

TWO YEARS' SUPPLY WOULD INVOLVE:

40 tons for church and manse 40 tons for hospital	80 tons at $65.	$5,200.

Dr. Spence feels furthermore, that the Board has made a mistake in depending upon the government's officials in this matter of coal. They have been poor executors of promises made, witness again the coal situation of last summer when the Wrangel delivery was not made.

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I have no doubt that after this brief interview, I have failed adequately to report everything with accuracy, but here at least is a basis for correction, if Mr.Banks or anyone else canfurnish same.

Summing up, my own rather definite impression is this:

This mission work at Point Barrow, limited to about 450 native Eskimos at Barrow and 110 at Point Barrow - the immediate field of our missionaries, - 200 at Wainwright, and not more than 1,000 within a five hundred mile radius, from the standpoint of its exactions and expense is out of all proportion as compared with our ordinary missionary undertakings. It is a super-missionary task and obligation to a small, remote and needy people. Having assumed that task in the name of the Christian constituency of America, our Board at any cost must maintain this work in a wholehearted, generous and understanding way. On no other terms can you expect competent people to go to such a field. This being the case, it is my final impression (for home consumption) that we have not at the Board had our base properly organized. But you have been up that way, and know what is involved much better than I possibly could.

I asked Dr. Spence to send me their travel expense from San Diego to Los Angeles for this interview, which, I was assure, you would desire the Board to pay.

Sincerely yours

W. P. Shriver

Dr. John A. Marquis
156 Fifth Ave., New York